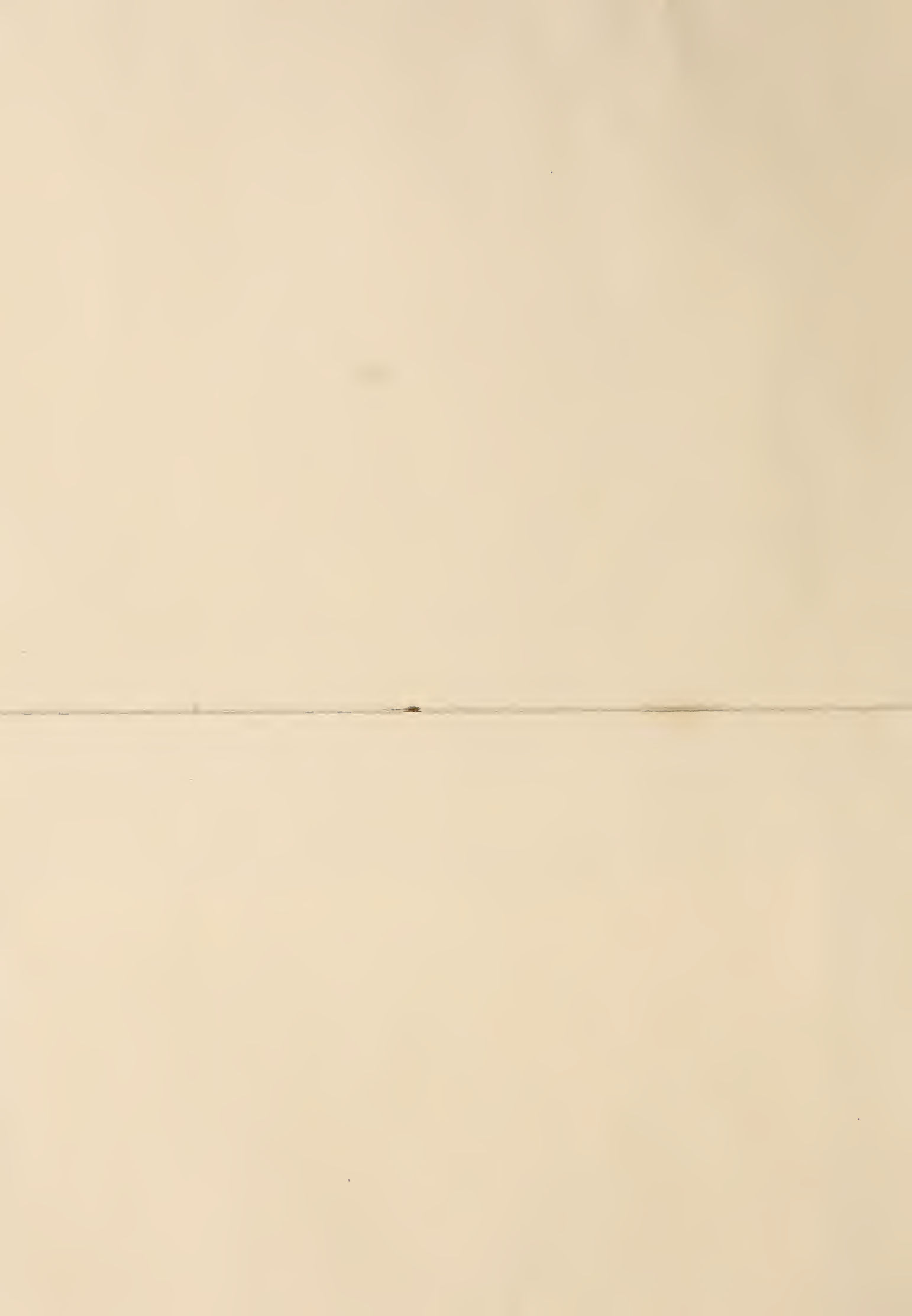


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MONTHLY

REGISTERED IN UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

October, 1909.

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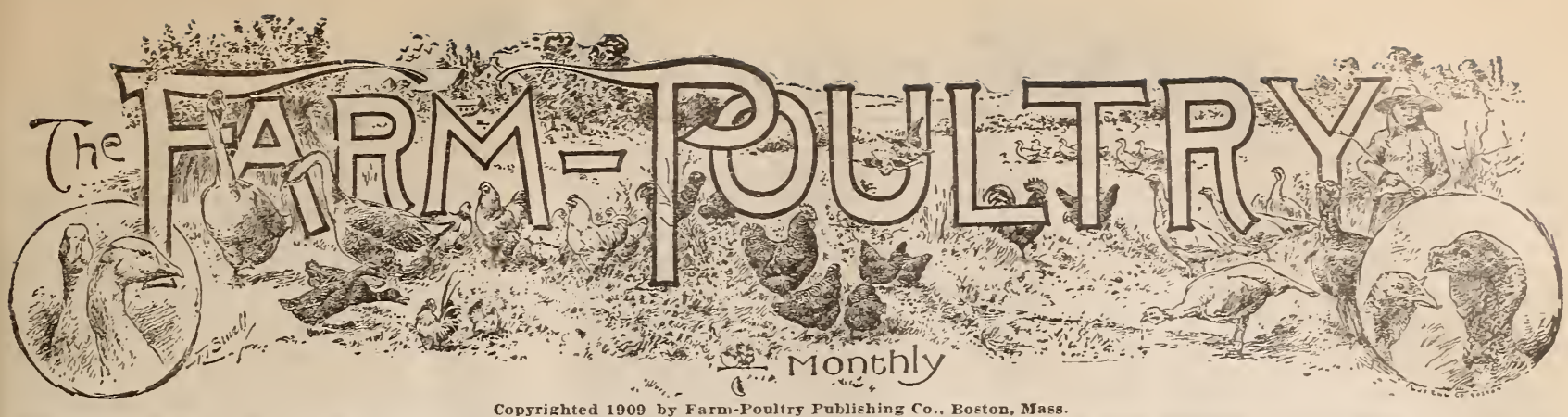
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Vol. 20.

BOSTON, MASS., OCTOBER, 1909.

No. 10.

THE POULTRY SHOW PROBLEM*

PROBLEMS relating to the exhibiting of poultry are numerous and perplexing, but at present one problem is more serious than all others combined, and so becomes for the time *the* poultry show problem.

That problem is to get the public to come to the poultry shows—and come again, and get into the habit of coming.

The support of the public—the general public made up principally of people not particularly interested in poultry—is so necessary to the financial success of a poultry show that it may be said that the permanence of shows in small towns and the development of shows in large cities depends on some way being found to attract the public.

To poultry keepers the exhibits of poultry and poultry supplies and appliances, and the opportunities to meet other poultrymen, are a sufficient attraction. Where these things are, the poultryman can find instruction and entertainment.

To the ordinary visitor an exhibition of poultry as it is presented to him is tame and tiresome,—having paid his admission to a show, he may stay an hour or two, but he finds at the show little inducement to remain longer, and no temptation to come again. The fact that after a brief stay he leaves, does not at the time worry the manager. When he fails to turn up next year—and when there are some hundreds or thousands of him—managers begin to see the need of doing something to interest the visitor who doesn't know enough about poultry to be able to entertain himself when turned loose in a show.

That the public is not interested in what poultry shows now offer in the way of entertainment, seems to me so self-evident that it is superfluous to undertake a demonstration of the fact. Yet for the sake of making the statement of the case complete, it may be well to briefly state the evidence in support of the proposition.

The Usual Story.

The general experience of managers of poultry shows is that people turn out well to a poultry show in a town where none has been held for a number of years, but that after two or three years, sometimes very suddenly, attendance dwindles until few are coming but those specially interested in poultry who are not numerous enough to make the show profitable—even if they all paid, and often a large proportion of these must, for various good reasons, be admitted free.

As a result of this the usual history of poultry shows follows one of the following courses:

1. A first show, well managed and well advertised, pays so well that the association feels justified in planning for a bigger show and a larger attendance the next year—usual result, a deficit. The deficit is paid (if paid at all), out of the pockets of a few members. If there is enough enthusiasm in the association they try it again, and go on the same way year after year. I have known associations do this for four or five years, and in a few instances nearly ten years. If the local enthusiasm shudders at a deficit, the show rarely lasts beyond a third year.

2. A first show poorly handled is a failure. The managers being anxious to make good, and seeing where

they made mistakes that can be avoided, try it again,—succeed this time, are encouraged to go on, and go on only to find attendance dwindling in spite of all efforts to attract the crowds. After a few years of this they give up.

3. A first show fails, and is immediately discontinued.

The shows with few exceptions fall into one or other of these classes. The fact that a show is held in a certain place continuously or with few intermissions, for quite a term of years, does not always signify that the shows are paying. Several different men or combinations of men may undertake to prolong the life of a show—each ambitious to succeed where others have failed.

While I have never tried to make a tabulation which would indicate the situation as to relative permanence of shows in large and small places, my impression is that no difference in favor of the large place exists. There are only two large cities in the country where poultry shows are well established on a scale and with an influence proportionate to the size and importance of the cities,—and



A Rhode Island Poultry Farmer's Cart on Its Morning Rounds.

of those I think it may be said that their condition is due to careful management rather than good attendance. It is risky to speak of relative attendance when you have not the figures, but it has been my impression, and as far as I have heard expressions in regard to it, seems to be the opinion prevalent among those who have attended these shows for years, that the attendance at New York and Boston is not as good as it was a few years ago. Usually we look for special causes to account for light attendance at shows of this class. "The weather," and "other attractions," are the most convenient excuses, and at the time they are made seem sufficient—if not satisfactory. Both of these causes have some effect—in particular instances they have a great deal. If we could consider the largest shows without reference to general conditions, we might be a long time in arriving at the conclusion that the indifference to the regular attractions of poultry shows which is so evident in the case of small shows also affected the large shows. But when the case as to the small shows is so plain, we have to inquire whether the large shows are also affected; and when we consider all the large shows I think we have to admit that they are.

It being evident and very generally admitted that there is a lack of public interest in poultry exhibitions, the question arises, "Why?" A question of this kind is not

answered by a statement of the fact that brought out the question. If you ask why the public do not attend poultry shows better, and I reply, "Because the general public is not interested in poultry exhibits," we are merely stating the same fact in different forms.

What the People Say.

If the public everywhere shows the same indifference to the standard attractions of the poultry show, it ought to be an easy matter to find out why the people are not interested. It ought to be easy, even if the people could not and did not speak for themselves. Inasmuch as the people do express their opinions, we seem to be without excuse for ignorance of their reasons. I have heard these reasons stated thousands of times in the last fifteen years by people I met at shows, by people I took to shows, by people who had been to shows, and by people I tried to get to go to shows. Their statements were all substantially the same—that the poultry as exhibited did not interest them—that there was neither amusement nor instruction to be had from rows or tiers of coops of poultry of which the most they could learn was the names, and that often only after some trouble.

This is not the verdict only of dull people or of those hard to interest; it is the verdict of intelligent men and women interested in everything, and looking for things to be interested in. It is the verdict, too, of people interested enough in the things that fail to interest them to the point of entertainment or instruction to ask themselves "why," and to analyze the situation and come to a conclusion. The conclusion they quite uniformly come to is that it is the fault of the poultrymen that the poultry are not made interesting to everyone.

Assuming that this conclusion is correct, we have to begin to discuss it in the light of some things these people do not appreciate. We have to consider especially two facts.

Poultry on the Stage.

First—that while a poultry show depends ultimately upon the general public for support and maintenance, it is primarily for poultrymen. Poultrymen must make the exhibition. They make it because it does them a certain economic service.

Second—that poultry is not well adapted to spectacular or competitive exhibition. This statement may seem to some directly contrary to facts as they see them. If so, I hope before I get through to convince them that it is correct.

Taking these two points in the order mentioned:—

While the cases are not exactly parallel, a poultry show in its relations to the different elements upon which it depends for support is very like a poultry paper. Theoretically at least, a poultry paper is published for its subscribers. Its primary object is to furnish them information and instruction; but the financial success of the publication depends on the advertising. The subscriber pays directly to the publisher so small a part of the total cost of the publication that if a publication fails to secure advertising in quantity and at a rate proportionate to its circulation, the faster its circulation grows the worse off it is.

So a poultry show that secures a large entry of birds and in that respect is well supported by fanciers, needs proportionate support from the public. If it fails to get

*Paper read by J. H. Robinson at Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of American Poultry Association, Niagara Falls, N. Y., August, 1909.



this it quickly reaches the point where increase of entries means increase of deficit.

When two factors in any such situation are so related, each in a measure depends upon the other; their relations are reciprocal. Each is at the same time a cause and an effect of the other. If we can strike a proper balance between these relations, a show should have a uniform and steady growth, entries and attendance increasing from year to year; but if either factor fails to develop the other must be injured. Practically the failure to secure enough exhibits to make a show of creditable size is almost known. I think we can say that the fanciers do their share toward the support of the poultry shows. The complaint of the public is not that there is not enough to see at the poultry shows, but that they cannot learn what they want to know about what there is to see.

The public looks at the subject from its own point of view. The commercial value of exhibiting to the exhibitor does not concern it. It has a curious interest in the winner of a blue ribbon until it has seen the bird and wondered and wondered in vain (even as exhibitors sometimes do), why the ribbon went to that bird rather than to one of several or perhaps of half a hundred competitors which to the public look just like it.

If it is announced that a bird on exhibition sold for five hundred dollars or a thousand dollars, or that such an offer was made and refused, the public wants to see the bird. Having seen it—and seeing it so like a lot of others that only the expert can distinguish between them, the public begins to feel discouraged in its efforts to become interested in poultry. Not only does it become discouraged, but it begins to wonder what manner of men these poultrymen are who make so much of trifles not perceptible to the uninitiated. This point, too, it is worth while for the poultryman to consider, for in this way shows may contribute to the suppression and extermination of interest in poultry—and seen from this standpoint, the show is not the simple and effective agent for the creation of new interest in poultry that it is commonly supposed to be.

To the exhibitor of poultry it makes in the end little difference whether the poultry is displayed under favorable conditions—provided his birds are not at a disadvantage in comparison with the birds of his competitors. The exhibitor may sell some stock and eggs at shows, but the chief service of the poultry show to him is to furnish material for advertising. He is looking not so much to the effects on immediate local sales, but to mail orders in the future. Provided his birds win enough prizes for this purpose, he will not grieve, though in his judgment the prizes (to which of course his birds were entitled), were not placed on the right birds.

The visitor usually has—at the time—no interest except to see as much as he can see. Seeing a thing means more than having it before the eye at a proper focus. It means more even than having it in a good light and under conditions which set it off to advantage.

Some Things That Have Been Tried.

Before pursuing this point farther let us go back and consider some of the means that have been taken to interest the public at poultry shows—on the theory that the public was not and could not be interested in the familiar kinds of poultry.

Poultry shows as a rule draw fair entries in popular varieties, or in varieties locally abundant, without special efforts to secure them. The result is that unless special efforts are made to secure other kinds the show lacks variety. A small show cannot as a rule offer inducements necessary to secure a full representation of the many varieties of poultry. The managers of a small show, therefore, are likely to look for something other than poultry to add to the variety of sights their show offers the visitor, and to take anything they can get from white mice to minstrel troupes.

The larger shows more easily secure good representations of most varieties of poultry. Frequently they make extra efforts (usually through specialty clubs), to get large exhibits of the less familiar varieties, particularly of those having some odd features. I am inclined to doubt whether as drawing cards with the public large classes of any kinds of poultry are effective. They may sometimes, when well advertised, bring out the curious, but if they fail to excite further interest they have accomplished but a small part of their purpose. I have watched the aisles in which different classes of birds were located at poultry shows for years, and as a result have come to the con-

clusion that novelty offers but a momentary attraction. It has seemed to me that the most visitors were or wanted to be interested in what most poultrymen were interested in, and that even the dullest visitor was quick to sense the fact that few were interested in the birds of the non-popular classes, even when on merit these constituted some of the best classes in the show. Visitors seem to naturally gravitate toward the centers of interest to poultrymen in a show room, and having reached those centers, to quickly become disgusted with their inability to find out just what is interesting the poultryman.

According to opportunity and ability poultry show managers have tried to develop two lines of spectacular exhibits—displays of birds not sufficiently useful or popular to become subjects for competition, and of all kinds of creatures which could be kept in cages, and displays of poultry appliances and supplies. Considered with reference to their use for the end sought, I think both of these lines have been developed to the detriment of the regular exhibits of poultry. While personally I enjoy these exhibits as much as most people, and think they have their place in a poultry show, they do not appear to me to furnish the answer to the poultry show problem under consideration. They should be, as they are properly, accessories of the display of poultry. If they constitute the chief attraction to any class of visitors there is something wrong—side shows are obscuring the main performance. That might not be a serious fault if it could be shown that they had a drawing power, but the most that can be said for them in connection with the present topic is that the visitor being in the show, and finding little to interest him in the regular poultry classes, may use them to while away the time. He does not come or come again to see them.

Though such accessory exhibits do not furnish staple attractions—by staple attractions I mean exhibits which have the power to draw year after year—they do indicate some of the things that are lacking to make the regular exhibits of poultry more attractive.

In the first place, these exhibits are usually well displayed. They are given good locations, visitors have a chance to see them. In case of birds and animals, they have as compared with the birds in competition, a good chance to display themselves. They have room around the coops. In regard to incubators and supplies,—not only are these goods well displayed, but the exhibits are accompanied by expert salesmen and demonstrators who are always willing and sometimes too ready to discourse on the merits of the articles displayed. It is not many years since this class of exhibits was given whatever space could be found for it after the poultry exhibits were placed. Today the manufacturers and jobbers of their goods pay liberally for the best space in the hall. Some of them declare that rivalry for good positions has led them to buy more space than they needed, and pay more than it was worth to them. From the other side, it seems to me, there is a question whether it was good business policy for the shows to take the income from this source, when the result was to make the conditions under which the poultry were displayed less satisfactory than before.

Practical Difficulties.

To be displayed to advantage, birds require a great deal of room—so much that it would be practically impossible to display all the birds in a show that way at the same time. Whether in a large city or a small town, it is usually impossible to find a hall large enough to show to advantage all the poultry that can be secured, or all that is required if entry fees are to bear their usual share of the expenses of the show. This condition is so prevalent that in discussing ideas for general application, we have to set it down that the birds cannot regularly have much if any more room than they are given now.

Then the practical question is as to whether it is feasible to arrange for special displays of birds under conditions pleasing to visitors. At a horse or a cattle show, the judging is done under conditions which show the competing animals off to the best advantage, and the public can see what is going on, and each who sees—according to his familiarity with the class of stock judged, can form some opinion of it, of the reasons for the awards, and incidentally of the judges' ability.

In the judging of dogs sometimes the same method is followed, and even pigeons are judged sometimes by this sort of comparison. But in the judging of poultry it is all different. In the first place, it is assumed that the judge must not know to whom the birds belong. In the

next place, it is assumed that the chief interest of visitors is to see where the ribbons go.

I have never been able to see a good reason for the idea that it was necessary or wise that the judge of poultry should not know to whom the birds belong. It has seemed to me an unwarranted imputation on judges, exhibitors, and the poultry fancy in general. If we as poultrymen thus advertise ourselves, why should we complain if the public concludes that there is more fraud and rascality in the poultry fancy than in other fancies?

If—as appears—the visitors to a show (and the exhibitors as well), want to know not only where the ribbons go, but why they go where they do, cannot some way be found to judge poultry in the open where as many as wish can see, and where exhibitors can handle their own birds, for the judge, in sight of competitors, and all?

The objection promptly urged to every suggestion of this kind is the expense and delay of judging. The present practice in judging is based on the idea that the ribbons must be up as soon as possible (and in a large show the marked catalogue be out as soon as possible). The supposition is that the public wants this. The public does—because it sees nothing else that is tangible—or perhaps I ought to say, instructive. But judging by no means always proceeds as fast as it is intended to. It is not unusual for the judging to be protracted through several days, instead of being completed in one. A trial might show that the public would prefer judging that it could see and know something about, and would not find fault if this were distributed through the entire time of the show.

If it be objected to this that exhibitors want the awards up early because of the effect on sales, we have to take the position that if the show is to be managed primarily to suit the exhibitors, it is not much use to discuss ways and means of attracting more of the public than is now attending shows. Possibly, in the end exhibitors would get more out of shows if they would concede more to the public. It seems to me that an exhibitor ought to be satisfied to get announcement of his awards anytime before the show closes, if that is a necessary part of an arrangement by which the general value of poultry shows to the industry will be increased.

Another objection may be raised on the score of the expense of judging this way. If making such judging to some extent a feature of a show would not help to interest the public, the expense would not be warranted. The possibilities of attracting and holding interest in this way, however, seem good enough to make it worth while for show managers to try it out with a few classes. I cannot take time here to go into the details of judging under such conditions further than that it seems to me quite an easy matter to make and so arrange judging coops that judging would be an attractive spectacle, and instructive as well. Some judges might not care to judge that way—but no great harm might follow the retirement of judges who could not after a little experience work in the limelight.

Market Poultry and Eggs.

The value of practical exhibits so-called, that is, of exhibits of dressed poultry and eggs to attract attendance, has not been demonstrated. The situation with respect to exhibits of this class is, so far as the public is concerned, about the same as with respect to exhibits of standard poultry—with possibly the difference that the public feels more confidence in its own opinion of the quality before it. There is, however, the same need for demonstration. The trouble and expense of getting up such exhibits is so great that few show managers care to undertake it. A great deal of the talk about developing this class of exhibits as a feature of poultry shows comes from those who have little conception of how much it means to the person who does the work, and how little it means to the exhibitor. There is the chief obstacle. These products—especially dressed poultry—rapidly deteriorate in quality when on exhibition. This has to be reckoned in the cost of making a display, and the awards have not the advertising value that awards on standard poultry have. If some way can be found of making practical exhibits educational, something more might be done with them. For instance, if a firm killing and dressing poultry would arrange to show its method of handling poultry killing and dressing at the show and selling carcasses to visitors instead of keeping them on exhibition, a single exhibit of this kind would

probably interest the public more than anything in that line that has ever been offered.

Individual Displays.

The idea of individual displays is one that might be applied also to other classes of exhibits. It has been done to some extent, and with good effect. If we could only break away from the notion that the birds competing for the same prizes must be lined up in consecutive coops—coops just alike, and nothing about them to identify the birds until the awards are up, we would have taken quite a step in the direction of popularizing poultry shows.

Suppose instead of the present arrangement, each exhibitor were to have all his birds together, arranging them as he saw fit, himself or an attendant in charge, and all the signs he wanted on his coop. Suppose when the time came for judging a certain class, each exhibitor took from his coops the birds entered in that class, all competitors came to the judging ring with their birds, and both regular and special awards in that class were made, announced, and ribbons given then and there. Numerous objections can be brought against such procedure, but numerous arguments can be made for it. The objections carry most weight with conservatives of the kind that objects to changes on principle. The arguments should appeal to those who can conceive of the possibility of judging poultry as other live stock is judged. If it is certain that the present procedure in judging is the best that could be devised, or if poultry show managers and exhibitors take the position that the public must take matters of this kind as it finds them, there is nothing more to be said on this point. But if there is any doubt about the perfection of judging practice, and if there is a disposition to cater to the public, an experiment like this is worth trying. The separation of exhibits of different exhibitors would benefit exhibitors, and please the public.

Institutes at Shows.

Poultry lectures as an attraction seem better adapted to small than large shows. I ought to qualify that by saying poultry lectures of the kinds that have been given at large shows, have not been satisfactory. From what I have seen of these, I think that before the lecture can be made a popular feature of a large show, another type of lecture must be offered, and arrangements must be made for delivery of the lectures under conditions satisfactory to both the speakers and the audience. If this can be done, it seems to me quite reasonable to suppose that lectures could be made a drawing feature at large poultry shows. What I have in mind can be illustrated by describing how the idea might be applied at the Boston show. That show occupies two halls and the gallery over one of them. If all poultry exhibits were placed in Machinery Hall and the gallery above it, and all other displays in Exhibition Hall, it would be possible by closing the doors between the two to confine the noise of the poultry to the hall they were in, and to give a lecture from the stage of the other hall. A carefully prepared lecture popularly treating some of the interesting phases of poultry culture, and illustrated with lantern slides—a lecture really worth going to hear and made interesting to people who don't know much about poultry, might prove a drawing card.

I say *might*, because while I believe such features would in time prove staple attractions which could be relied upon to draw the crowds, it is not probable that they would be an immediate success. Popular lectures on the subject must first be developed. We have hardly begun to make the use that may be made in this way of interesting information about poultry. Even if most excellent lectures could be given from the outset, the public would not at once realize their interest, for the public has become accustomed to suppose that lectures or talks of interest to poultrymen will not interest it. The subject is rich in material for lectures and demonstrations interesting alike to poultry keepers and the general public, but the lectures have been mostly too technical for the public, and they have been given under conditions equally trying to speakers and audiences.

Satisfactory conditions for lectures are found at few if any shows at present. To create them at a large show would mean some radical changes, and would involve some risk—possibly more than the management would feel warranted in taking.

Co-operation.

This brings us to another matter in connection with the management of poultry shows, which I think must

be changed before our shows can develop as they should. The most amazing thing in the show situation is the almost utter lack of cooperation between associations holding shows. Each association lives and dies by itself, and is as indifferent as possible to the interests of other associations. Reasons for this may be found in the facts that associations generally have been too short lived to admit of effective cooperation, and that each has been fully occupied with its own problems. While furnishing an explanation for the condition noted, these facts do not excuse it. They require instead that associations make concerted effort to help each other. Movements in this direction have recently been started in different parts of the country. They are good as far as they go, but cooperation between associations holding shows can never have its perfect work until associations are organized on some system by which the local association concedes to a general board some control over its show, and in return secures the backing of all associations affiliated with it. Under such conditions promising ideas could be tried out by shows willing to test them with the approval of the general board, without the show making the experiment by which all benefit doing so at the risk of its own existence. I have long believed that the work of coordinating and unifying the operations of local poultry associations was peculiarly within the province of the American Poultry Association, and I hope that before many years this association will be doing that work, and through proper channels, advising and assisting show managers. I can conceive of nothing that will help more to give local associations permanence and promote the general good of poultry shows.

Poultry at Fairs.

There is still another matter calling for consideration in this connection. It is a matter which may mean a great deal more than is seen on the surface. For a good many years the tendency of poultrymen was to regard a special poultry show as of a higher order than a poultry show held in connection with an agricultural fair. This

tendency is still prevalent, but the combination show in form greatly improved as far as poultry are concerned, is coming back into favor. It never went out entirely, but of late years there has been remarkable improvement in the poultry departments of many important fairs; the few long noted for the excellence of these departments are adding to their reputations, and others are continually coming into prominence. These fairs now handle their poultry exhibits in every respect as they are handled at winter poultry shows, and a man must draw heavily on his imagination to discover wherein the general quality of their exhibits is inferior. The birds as a whole are not at that season in as nice condition as the later shows, but one reason for that is that fanciers are accustomed to put forth their best efforts for important winter shows. The fair has the very great advantage over the winter show in that the poultry department benefits in a degree by the attractions of every other department, and here far more than at the exclusive poultry show, exhibits of poultry attract the interest of people not previously interested in poultry. Wherever progressive fair associations are building up their poultry departments, it is for the interest of exhibitors of poultry in that vicinity to help it in every way they can. The poultry show as one of a combination of agricultural attractions has a much simpler proposition than the poultry show which must contain in itself sufficient attractions to draw the crowds needed to pay the expenses of running the show.

Give the People What They Want.

The poultry show problem, like most general problems, is not to be solved by one method for all times and places. We must still have fall shows and winter shows, and we may perhaps have more summer shows. In many features these shows must be alike, but the different conditions affecting them call for different treatment of important details. For all kinds of poultry shows, managers need now more than ever before to consider the public, try to find out what the people want—and give it to them. When they do this we shall hear less of the complaint that the public is not interested in poultry.

Description of a Hen's Egg*

A HEN'S egg, surrounded by its shell, which is calcareous, is lined on the interior by a double membrane. A skin extends over the whole internal surface, and that skin is double; and in one part of the shell it recedes from the shell and leaves an open space, which is the air chamber of the egg. These are only protections of the egg, and are formed last upon it. In the interior of the egg we have a round ball of yolk which is suspended in the egg by two cords of somewhat harder albumen than that which surrounds the yolk. These two cords keep the yolk so suspended in the egg that whatever position you give the egg, certain parts always remain uppermost. You may open any number of eggs, and you will always find that a little white speck stares you in the face. You may turn the egg as you please, but that little speck will always be uppermost. This is owing to the fact that the yolk is heavier in one portion and lighter in another, and that it may swing upon the two strings of albumen by which it is suspended. This speck, called blastoderm by embryologists, is the part from which the young chick is developed when the egg is brought under proper conditions of temperature, etc.

As to the albumen, or white, it is not one mass; it consists of a number of layers; and when you boil an egg so that the whole is hardened, it is easy to see that it peels off in these layers, which are deposited one after another. Now such an egg has a history. It does not begin to be an egg of that size; it does not begin with having a shell; it does not begin with having these membranes within the shell; it does not begin with having the white around the yolk. There is a time when the egg has neither shell nor these membranes, nor the white, but when the whole egg is yolk; and you may find such eggs in the organ called the ovary, in which the eggs are produced.

If we look carefully at the ovary of the hen, we find that it contains a variety of eggs. It has eggs which have attained to their full size—they are about the size of a small walnut—it may contain a certain number of these—but by the side of these large yolks there are smaller yolks of various dimensions, and if you will examine minutely you will soon see that there are those which, at the distance you are from me, you could not see at all, even if I represented them magnified a great many times; and you gradually, by learning to watch more and more closely, detect among this mass of eggs

which are readily visible others which are less and less distinct to the eye; and if you take a magnifying glass you find that there are others which had escaped your eye when you had no magnifying power to help you; and if you use higher and higher power you begin to find that there are more and more of these eggs, which loom up to your eye in proportion as you use a higher power of the microscope. It is like the starry heavens, where you have stars of first, second, fourth, and tenth magnitude, some of which are visible to the naked eye, and others only through the telescope of our observatories. Yet all these small specks in the ovary, invisible to the naked eye, are bona fide eggs. As soon as one of the full grown yolks drops, to be taken up through the oviduct, and to be surrounded by albumen, and then by a shell, another grows larger, and when all those which are at any moment of full size have been laid, they are followed by another crop, and crop after crop comes to the surface of the organ, ready to be laid in succession. If you watch their growth, it is easy to see that each one passes into the condition of the eggs higher in size by a process of increase which is similar to the process by which a young animal grows to acquire the dimensions of an adult. Nobody now doubts that these small granules scattered through the ovary are really eggs in their incipient condition.

How do they look when examined under the microscope—say under a microscope magnifying two hundred and fifty times the diameter—an egg, therefore, which could not be seen by any human eye? You magnify it, as I have said, two hundred and fifty times, and you will see that that egg is a sphere, which you may, with the microscope, magnify to look as large as a full grown yolk. It is then perfectly transparent, as if it were full of a uniform fluid, like water; but at some places on the side it has a little vesicle, a little bag, which is also transparent, and may only be seen under skillful management; in this again still another which appears like a small dot. Now, you examine an egg a little larger than that, and you will perceive that in it the fluid mass is obscured slightly by small dots. If you apply the highest power of the microscope to these dots you very soon find that they are not solid granules, but that they are hollow vesicles which, in their turn, produce other granules within themselves, so that the growth of an egg is in fact the enlargement of little granule like masses of animal substance, which are transformed into bag-like bodies within which the same process is repeated over and over again. These little granules inside, as the whole egg grows larger, burst and scatter their contents throughout it; and the egg, from perfectly white, becomes slightly tinged with yellow, and finally grows more and more opaque; and, when the yolk has acquired its full size and is ready to drop, it is really an opaque mass, but consisting throughout of these minute granules.

*From a lecture by Prof. Louis Agassiz, at Barre, Mass., Dec., 1872.

FOR YOUNG POULTRY KEEPERS

What Boys and Girls Can Do With Poultry.

THE boys and girls for whom this is written are not the big boys and girls who can do the work of grown up folks, nor the little boys and girls not able yet to do much for themselves, but the middle-sized boys and girls, who have to give a good deal of time to school work, and some hours every day to play, and yet want to have some work of their own, and earn some money doing it.

Of course these middle-sized boys and girls are not all the same size. The biggest of them can do a great deal of work if they want to. The smallest cannot do so much, but, if they try, they can do their little work just as well and earn their share.

In taking care of a few of any kind of domestic poultry, there is no hard or heavy work. It is when the number kept is so large that the quantities of food and water they use make it necessary either to carry heavy pails from house to house or make many trips with small pails, that the work becomes hard. Then the feeding and watering alone might be too heavy for a child. But in addition to this, when the flock is large, cleaning and keeping houses in order also become harder,

So the smallest of our boys and girls should try to keep only a few hens. Larger children just beginning to keep poultry ought also to begin with a small number. For beginners and for boys and girls seven or eight years old six to twelve hens will be enough. If there is not much room for hens I advise beginning with not more than six or eight. If there is plenty of room, more may be kept.

For six or eight hens you should have a house or coop with about 50 to 60 sq. ft. of floor space. If you have a larger house you can give the hens as much more room as you like. The size mentioned is about the least that will be satisfactory, if the hens have to be kept in the house much of the time. Where winters are mild and there is not much snow a house somewhat smaller would answer. The house should not be higher than is necessary to enable one to get around in it conveniently.

Six or eight hens should have a yard with as much floor space as their house, and as much more as can be had up to about 1000 sq. ft. Beyond that extra room would not benefit them except as it might give a chance to pick up more food and so reduce the cost of feeding them.

The kind of hens does not matter a great deal. There are few hens of any kind that when kept in small flocks and given good care will not lay well. If you already have some hens and they suit you, keep that kind. If you have to choose a kind and buy some, look about among the poultry keepers near your home, and choose the kind that pleases you. Don't buy expensive ones at first. If you can get pullets that are well grown and nice looking at the price of market poultry or a little more, buy them, or buy good hens not over a year and a half old. Don't buy hens that are fat and clumsy, or have wrinkled, old-looking heads.

When you have got your hens you will find it easy to take care of them while they are new and interesting, but sometimes after the novelty wears off people (and especially young people), get a little bit careless. They think it cannot make much difference if they keep the hens waiting for a meal sometimes. If neglect happened only once it would not make much difference, but the trouble is that when one thinks this way about his work, he neglects it not once, but often. In work with live stock like poultry and cattle, we find that it is just as necessary to be regular in feeding as it is to give the creatures enough to eat. It will not do to let them go without one meal, and give them twice as much as they usually take the next. If hens are to lay well and pay well, they must have regular care, and not be neglected at any time. This is a point a small boy or girl can look after just as well as anyone. The thing is not to forget. A good way to avoid forgetting is to always think before you eat your own meal whether the hens have had theirs, and if they have not, feed them first. If you will notice you will find that most people who take good care of their animals look after the animals' comfort before they consider their own.

While young people may make some money from a

few fowls, the greatest pleasure they get is in owning and caring for them, in studying their looks and ways, and learning as much as possible about them. There is a great deal to learn about poultry. The more you know about them the more you think of that you would like to find out. Yet though there are so many things to excite curiosity, and some of them are puzzling to the wisest men, the work of caring for a few hens, ducks, geese, or turkeys is simple and easy, unless we make it hard. I will try and make instructions very plain, and I hope the boys and girls who come here for help with poultry will not hesitate to ask for an explanation of any thing they do not understand.

Feeding the Hens.

FOWLS live mostly upon grains and seeds, but need also some green grass or juicy vegetables or root food, and some meat food of some kind. They will eat almost every thing that human beings eat. Creatures which eat all the different kinds of food are said to be omnivorous. The only omnivorous domestic animal is the pig. People, poultry, and pigs eat the same kinds of food. One reason for keeping poultry and pigs is to use the remnants of human food that would otherwise be wasted, or perhaps left to decay.

For pigs all sorts of table and kitchen waste, both solid and liquid, may be kept together and fed as swill or slop. But the digestive organs of poultry are very different, and are not adapted to sloppy foods. So when only a small flock of hens is kept, and it is desired to feed them as much as possible of the waste from the table and kitchen, this waste must either be saved or prepared in suitable form.

Many things can be fed just as they come from the kitchen or the table. The coarse outer leaves of cabbage and lettuce, thrown away by the cook, may be fed just as they are. Raw parings of potatoes and fruit the hens cannot easily break up for themselves, and if they are fed they should be cooked.

Remnants of cooked vegetables, soft breads and cakes, and small scraps of meat, may be given just as they come from the table. Hard crusts and dry bread must be moistened, and such things as mush, porridge, and puddings must be thickened with meal and bran until quite dry. Usually it is most convenient to save all this waste in one vessel. In that case it can when fed be all stirred together before feeding. Then if there is a large proportion of dry bread, hot water can be added, while if there is so much soft stuff that the mixture is sloppy, meal and bran can be added.

When hens are fed the table waste all at one meal, and given all they will eat of it, no more of this soft food should be fed that day. The rest of the day's ration should be hard grain. If too much soft food is given hens get indigestion. They are much better to have no soft mixtures—or mashes, as they are called—than to be fed too much of them. Where there is an abundance of table waste people often try to save cost of feeding by giving the hens only a little grain, and forcing them to eat mostly soft food. They soon find that this is not true economy, for the hens are likely to get sick.

Sometimes it is so inconvenient to save table scraps for the hens, especially if the hens cannot use them all, and there are pigs to take them, that it is more satisfactory to make a mash. There are a number of different ways of making mashes, but I will give here only the one I think you will find easiest.

For six or seven hens take about half a pint of corn meal in a small pail (about four to six quart pail), and pour boiling water on it, stirring with a strong spoon or a wooden paddle, to make a mush about like the batter for corn bread in consistency. Boiling water swells the meal instantly, but if the water is not quite boiling the meal will not become mushy, and stick together, but will be like sand, settling to the bottom, with the water standing on top. When the meal is well stirred up mix with it about a pint of bran. If you have the mush very thin it will take more bran than that to make the mash of the right consistency. If the mush is too thick there will not be water enough in it to moisten all the bran. Then you must add a little more boiling water. You should have a little over a quart of mash, and it should be

quite "doughy" in appearance, but not sticking together when handled as bread dough does.

For a larger number of hens increase the amounts used in proportion. Of this kind of a mash each hen will usually eat about a third of a pint; but that depends somewhat on other conditions of feeding. If hens have a chance to eat some grain in the morning before the mash is given them, they may not eat so much mash. If they get no grain before it, and had a light feed the night before, hens will eat much more than a third of a pint. As a rule it will be found that the hens do best and keep in best condition when so fed their other meals that they will eat up clean about a third of a pint of mash when fed about seven o'clock in the morning.

The grains most used for hens are corn and wheat. In some sections a great deal of oats are used, but unless oats are of good quality hens waste so much of them that it does not pay to feed them. Barley is a good feed, quite as good as wheat, but not to be obtained everywhere. For the present we will consider only wheat and corn. Corn is a cheaper food than wheat, and if cracked corn is fed scattered in litter in the floor of the house, or well scattered in a grassy yard, the greater part of the grain given the hens may be corn. The reason the corn is cracked is because the whole grains are so large that the hens can eat all they need very quickly. Then when their hunger is satisfied, they have nothing to do, and lie around and get fat, or perhaps get such bad habits as eating each others' feathers.

When a mash has been fed in the morning, a light feed of wheat, scattered in litter, or in the yard, may be given at noon, and about four o'clock a full feed of cracked corn. By a "full feed," we mean just the same as you mean by a "full meal." A full meal is the usual quantity you eat when your appetite is good and you eat until you are satisfied.

Hard grains digest so slowly that if you give your hens all the wheat they will eat at noon, they will not be very hungry by four o'clock, and would eat only a light feed of corn. Then they will be very hungry the next morning. For a half dozen hens, about a teacupful of wheat at noon, should be enough. Be sure and scatter it well, or if fed in a small space cover well with litter, so that the hens will have to work for it. For the night feed of cracked corn give a half dozen hens about three-fourths of a pint.

The amounts I have mentioned are about what six or seven hens of medium size will eat if confined where they get only what food you give them. If hens have a chance to pick food for themselves about stables or over a large yard, they may find so much to eat that they will require very little grain. When I was a boy in Illinois there was one winter when we had only six hens and a rooster. When we thought them about this time in the fall I went to the feed store and bought 25 lbs. of wheat screenings. The winter was so mild that the hens were out on the ground nearly all the time. We kept a cow, and our next neighbor, whose barn was just across the alley, kept a cow and a horse; our flock had access to both stable yards. They were fed scraps from our own table, and given grain only on the few days they could not get out to the stable yards. That 25 lbs. of grain lasted until near spring, and the hens laid well all winter.

It is most important that hens be kept supplied with water. It should be before them at all times. Often poultry keepers let the drinking vessels get empty late in the day, and do not fill them until they feed, or later, next morning. A fowl, like a person, is apt to want a drink of water the first thing in the morning. Be sure your fowls can get it.

For litter on the floor of the house, to keep it comfortable, and give the hens exercise in hunting for the grain fed them, there is nothing better than dry leaves. This month is the time to store away a supply for winter. They can almost always be had for the taking. If there is not a supply in your own yard, collect them on the street, or in the yard of someone who does not want them. In a few hours on Saturday or after school some other day you can collect leaves enough to last a long time. If there is no bin or shed to store them in, pack them in bags or barrels.



Scratchings from the Litter of Our Exchange Table.

SOME of the authorities on poultry nomenclature are making merry over the term, "deck feathers," which the revision committee suggested to be used in "Standard" descriptions of fowls to designate the two highest or upper main tail feathers. These authorities refer to it as an unknown term, and seem to think the idea of applying it to tail feathers very funny.

The person who vouched for the term was Theo. Hewes, who declared that it was commonly used through the west. What surprises us is that so many people who ought to know the term did not know it, and that those who did know it should not have been able to cite authority for it. The term has been familiar enough to get into the dictionaries long ago. It occurs frequently in writings of some of the older writers on poultry. It is perhaps as well to omit it from Standard descriptions, but I confess I don't see how so many missed making its acquaintance.

In a contribution to the *Poultry Fancier*, D. M. Owen says: "A bird scored at Madison Square Garden by judge Smith, is worth no more than one scoring 95 at a small show in Illinois, by the same judge. The score of 95 gives the bird's record or value. So the winner at the small show has the same value as the winner at the large show, provided the score is the same and by the same judge; but take the same two birds and let one win at Madison Square and the other at the small show, and the Madison Square winner will sell for ten times as much as the winner at the small show. It may possibly be to the interest of some of the large shows to hold comparison, as no one will ever know that the winners there are no better than hundreds of birds that are shown at smaller shows throughout the country."

A great many winners at small shows afterwards find their way to and win at leading shows. A great many more find themselves out of their class when they get to the big show. The owners have realized this when, relying on such arguments as the above, they concluded to clear up Madison Square or Boston.

Prof. Spillman, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has an article in a recent issue of *Poultry* on "Barring in Barred Plymouth Rocks," in which he tells us that "science" has discovered what seems (sic), to be the cause of the difference in color of the two sexes in this breed, and that the difference can never be overcome. "And since" he asks, "males must necessarily be lighter than females of the same breeding, would it not be the part of wisdom for the fancier to endeavor to learn just the shade of difference nature tries to produce between the sexes, and then change the Standard accordingly?"

From the fancier's point of view it would not. The purpose of the fancier is not as Mr. Spillman seems to assume, in discussion of the point to produce the types of birds easiest to produce, and therefore produced in greatest abundance. The fancier's object is just the opposite, though on hasty consideration of the fact that each fancier endeavors to produce as many birds as possible approximating Standard type, it might seem that easy Standards would help the fancier. The first specification for a Standard type is that it shall be difficult to produce. What nature does is of slight interest to the fancier, for what nature does in one man's stock it also does in others. In breeding to "better than nature" standards, the art and skill of the fancier find field for exercise.

As I have said again and again in these columns, the fancier damages breeds for utility purposes, not so much by wrong ideals as by wrong applications of his ideals, by magnifying some one or few points to the neglect of others. It is in ill balanced and defective applications of his ideals that the fancier injures breeds of poultry. And, as I have also said again and again, the "practical" breeder is as much or more to blame for the deterioration of breeds. There is no need of his

being as dependent upon the fancier for stock as he is. He is a veritable spendthrift of quality in his stock. When he gets what he wants he uses it to exhaustion for direct production, and neglects to conserve the energies of a part of the stock for reproduction. As a consequence he loses quality faster than he and the fancier together can build it up. Because this is the general situation, breeds come and go.

C. J. Davies, in an article on "Establishing a Strain," in the *Illustrated Poultry Record*, says that to become a successful breeder it is necessary to establish a strain. Some years ago we had a discussion on the subject of strain in F.-P., participated in by a number of breeders and judges. The consensus of opinion among these seemed to be that efforts to establish distinctive strains were likely to be detrimental to the breeders making them. The philosophy of the matter is this: The object of the breeder is (or should be), to conform to a common agreed upon ideal. In so far as breeders do this their stocks become alike and fail to exhibit strain character. Efforts to establish strain character must therefore be in the direction of making birds different from those of other breeders, and the results as far as successful tend to destroy the uniformity which breeders by agreeing upon a standard try to create and maintain.

Editor Heck, of the *Successful Poultry Journal*, says he has tried to close the "Gorline" controversy, but "Mr. Gorline has been cavorting around and champing the bit, and vowing vengeance," so he "gives space to a somewhat lengthy communication from Mr. Gorline, in which, to his own satisfaction at least, he disposes of two of his antagonists."

The two disposed of are I. K. Felch and H. S. Babcock. The editor of F.-P. is to be slaughtered separately next time. What is in store for me I can guess after finding at the end of about two pages of argument which I haven't time to read, this statement in regard to Mr. Babcock: "I therefore take it that the gentleman is suffering from chronic hypersecretion of the bile, superinduced by surcharge of omnivorous quotations resulting in lentry of the pen, the prognosis of which is most unfavorable."

Persons reading that will see at once the nature of the trouble from which Mr. Gorline is suffering.

One of our contemporaries says that there were twenty-eight representatives of the poultry press taking part in the A. P. A. meeting at Niagara. I didn't count, but there must have been about that many. Still there was a large number of poultry papers unrepresented, for some papers had several representatives on the ground. Some of the papers not present depended upon a correspondent for report of what was done; some (as the September numbers show), picked up an item here and there as they could get it. Some of these make funny mistakes. Thus one paper places Curtis at the head of the editing and publishing committee, and told its readers that the association practically accepted the recommendations of the revision committee.

W. C. Pierce reported the A. P. A. meeting for *Commercial Poultry*, and through that medium tells the public that it was quite noticeable that those who favored the abolishing of disqualifications were either in favor of doing away with the score card or in favor of the decimal card. Mr. Pierce might "illustrate" his point by mention of a few names, but I think it would bother him to prove it on a general show down of the attitude of members towards these various propositions. He goes on to say: "It is a good thing for the poultry industry that there are a number of cool headed, reasoning gentlemen in annual attendance at these meetings,—men who are always on the alert for these 'jokers' that the radicals try to work in."

Mr. Pierce is not the only man in the association who thinks himself wise, clear headed, and conservative, who is always "seein' things" in propositions he does not favor. There are even some who take different views on some matters that come up for consideration who think they see "jokers" in legislation favored by Mr. Pierce and his intimate friend and associate in the business of making judges at so much per.

Of the last A. P. A. meeting the *Poultry Item* says: "Everybody had a chance to talk; the old story of being run by a few is past and gone." The correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says: "The domination of the convention by a few was more perceptible at this meeting than ever before." Which is right? Are both right? Did everybody talk while a few sawed wood?

Editor H. P. Rankin, in the *Poultry Gazette*, suggests that the "Standard" contain a chapter entitled "Instruction to Exhibitors," wherein all known methods of legitimate conditioning and illegitimate conditioning shall be described in detail with sharp lines drawn between legitimate and illegitimate conditioning, and only such acts termed faking as can be detected."

The trouble with that is that it makes good faking *not* faking, and poor faking *faking*. That in fact is the condition today, and perhaps it cannot be altered. The real question is how to define faking in such a way that the American Poultry Association without appearing to put itself in the position of justifying in one place what it prohibits in another, and of saying practically that the smart faker shall be honored, but the bungler shall be cast into outer darkness.

As individuals feel concerned there is the question, too, of the morality of disregarding or making rules. I may not take the right view of this, but I confess that I never had a great deal of reverence for rules that were based more on authority than on reason or right. I confess, too, that I am unable to see why it is a worse fault for a poultryman to violate some rules of the American Poultry Association than for a citizen to disregard or evade laws of the town, state, or nation. The fact is we've got so much law now, and our laws are tinkered and juggled so much that if a man were to try to learn and live up to every legal regulation affecting his conduct or business relations, he wouldn't be able to do much else. So most of us go ahead doing about right, as we see it, and these laws remain on the statute books chiefly because they are not enforced.

Eye Trouble in Fowls.

EDITOR FARM-POULTRY:—I wrote to a specialist some time ago, inclosing fee, to ask about an eye trouble which my birds get, and he replied that "it was cataract, incurable; not to let them get too fat." Last year my birds were pretty heavy, but this year the thin ones were as much affected. It is getting to be a serious thing, as it affects some of my best birds, rendering them unfit to show. The first symptom is a fading of the iris, it getting very light in color; no discharge, nor sickness in any way that I can see. Secondly, the pupil contracts until it is an irregular shape, and then gets to be the size of a pin head. Sometimes it is in one eye alone—sometimes in both. I have shipped every hen to market that has it. Now in nearly every hatch this spring I had two or three chicks with sore eyes—not otherwise sick. They were in hen hatched and brooded, as well as in incubator and brooder chicks. I begin to think there is some obscure disease. I heard of an Orpington breeder at Madison Square who had the trouble in his yards. Can you tell me what it is, and how to prevent it? I had one cockerel which went this way in twenty-four hours, while I was getting him ready for a show, but usually it is slower. He had beautiful strong bay eyes, but it cut him. Is it a possible thing that there is any weed which is a drug that affects their eyes in this way?

J. W. G.

Mr. Rankin has another suggestion to make. On the (not wholly absurd) supposition that all have been guilty of faking, he suggests a general confession of sins followed by a general reformation. To prove his faith by his works, he begins by confessing some of his own shortcomings as an exhibitor.

Wouldn't it be sufficient for fakers to simply refrain from faking in future, and spare us the recitals of their experiences? If there are so many of them where would it end?

Coming back to the original question, I cannot, even after long reflection, see anything so very heinous in the artistic fixing of an exhibition bird to make him more closely conform to breeders' ideals. What jars me is to see a judge pass the crudest, roughest kind of a job without appearing to notice it. It seems to me the line ought to be drawn somewhere between little touches which improve nature without materially altering a feature, and wholesale alteration or downright mutilation.

It seems to me that if condition counted for more, and trivial defects for less in judging, that there would be a general uplift in the ethics of exhibiting. I have always had a feeling that while in a certain case under consideration it might seem a hardship, on the whole it would be a blessing if show rules absolutely prohibited the judge from considering a bird with badly broken, defective, or very dirty plumage, frosted comb, swelled head, scaly legs, etc., and such prohibitions were enforced. A bird in such condition is not an "exhibition" specimen; why should it be exhibited?

J. H. Drevenstedt tells readers of the *American Stock-Keeper* that some of the western members of the A. P. A. at Niagara Falls made up a slate with Col. Bryant for president, W. S. Russell for secretary, and U. R. Fishel for member of executive board. That slate is cracked right through the middle. Russell has been my choice for secretary more than once. Campbell never sought the office. He was importuned to run by members who did not think Ring was the man for the job, and who saw that without a candidate who stood high with the members of the association to oppose him, the work being done by and for Ring would land him in the office. Those who are beginning now to talk of opposing Campbell next winter have lost their bearings.

For interesting work during the coming fall and winter nights, take advantage of our offer of 50 books for 50 cents. These back numbers of FARM-POULTRY will make a valuable scrap book. See advertisement on cover.

The eye troubles of poultry not associated with roup have had little attention from our poultry M. D.'s. Conjunctivitis and keratitis, which is a development of it, are the names given the commonest eye troubles. It is said that there is generally some discharge and gumming of the eyes in these diseases, but not always. It is not clear from Miss G.'s statement, whether the trouble is the same in chicks and older birds. As a matter of fact, we don't know enough about afflictions of the eyes of birds to differentiate and distinguish between them. It seems unlikely that if birds thus affected were promptly disposed of and not used for breeders, any contagious trouble would reappear so generally this year. I think it would be found after full investigation that these eye symptoms were associated with some inherent weakness in the stock, or in certain individuals. It does not strike me as at all probable that any weed or other substance would produce such symptoms. It does occur to me as quite possible that the condition of the eye in some of the birds at least results in part from debility. I would not care to recommend any specific treatment on so imperfect an understanding of this case as I have; but where anything like an epidemic condition persists in spite of the usual efforts to check it by disposing of affected birds, I would advise very careful inquiry into the general condition of the stock, and of surroundings which might affect it.

Some Lessons of the De Graff Case.

WE present elsewhere in this paper two views of the case of the expulsion of E. T. De Graff, from the American Poultry Association, which show how differently the same event may appear to different men. As our September exchanges arrive many contain comment on this case, but a few fail to mention it, and so far as we observe the papers that do not mention it still carry the De Graff advertising, and the others do not.

It was reported at Niagara Falls that Mr. De Graff had declared after the finding against him that because of his prominence as an advertiser the papers would suppress this information. We do not know what truth there was in this report. It expresses an opinion of Mr. De Graff's influence with at least a considerable part of the poultry press in line with a certain statement of his in a letter shown the writer some months ago, and as we consider this case in the light of accumulating comments upon it, it seems to us that Mr. De Graff's downfall was hastened and made more violent because he failed to understand some of the peculiarities of the poultry press and of poultrymen. We do not admit that they are not general peculiarities, but we need not here consider them except as they are in the poultry world.

The poultry press in general has allowed Mr. De Graff to "work" it to an extent which would somewhat justify a feeling on his part that he had a "pull" with the papers. We have before us a circular issued by him in which he says: "I have received over 2,000,000 copies of free reading notices this fall, which have not cost me a cent, as nearly every poultry paper published has used either my large frontispiece cuts, an article by me on something pertaining to Reds or about the Red school."

Mr. De Graff was the most diligent seeker after free advertising through pictures and articles conspicuously advertising himself we have known—and we've known a good many. Whether it is to the credit of the part of the poultry press that was worked that he was the most successful advertiser of this type we have known, we leave it to those papers and the public to decide. At the beginning of his advertising career we extended to him such privileges as we would to any one requesting the same, but when it appeared that he proposed to systematically work the poultry papers for his reading notice publicity on the smallest possible investments for advertising, our uniform reply to his suggestions that we use his cuts and articles was to quote him the regular advertising rate for the space they would occupy.

The poultry press as a whole must bear a certain amount of responsibility for the position in which Mr. De Graff is now placed. It has been giving him an extraordinary amount of publicity at the expense of advertisers less ready to ask favors, and so, apparently, has bred in his mind a rather low idea of the attitude of the press morally. It seems evident that he made the mistake of rating press morality too low, and also failed to note the difference in the attitude of poultrymen toward suspicion and conviction. He was apparently less guarded in his faults, and less disposed to self-protection through failure to understand that the moral tone of the poultry industry is actually a good deal higher than from his standpoint it appeared to be. The poultrymen would not "stand for" as much as he supposed, and he could hardly look for mitigation of punishment for faults confessed from those he was including in wholesale accusations—with no proof. We think it is in order for the press that has exploited Mr. De Graff to consider how far it is responsible for his errors of judgment—and of conduct.

There is another lesson in this case.—a lesson for the American Poultry Association. If the association is going to insist on a high standard of individual morality among its members, it must as an organization place its own standards of conduct and policy high. There is something decidedly incongruous in the spectacle of an organization that revises its "Standard" every five years to derive a revenue making so much outcry over the faults of members. We would not counsel silence as to such faults, but would like to see the association take the beam out of its own eye before it goes into the business of casting either notes or beams out of the

eyes of others. And as the most practical way of getting rid of this beam we would suggest that the association devise ways and means of revenue getting that will make it independent of an income from the sales of "Standards."

Why Make Fish of One and Flesh of the Other?

LAST winter, in a talk before the West Virginia Branch of the American Poultry Association, Prof. C. K. Graham of Virginia, referring to the frequency with which the would-be poultryman turns his attention to "broilers," asked the question, "Why does he say 'broilers?'" then proceeded to answer it thus,— "Simply because he reads about it in the poultry papers. The poultry paper is all right in its place, but there is a place for it. It carries one or two columns in it of nice news, which tells how much this man is making, and how much that man is making, and right alongside of it telling where you can buy patent feed-troughs, incubators, brooders, poultry books, and all other traps that can be put into it; i. e., a poultry paper is gotten up for the sucker, for the man who wants to buy something. The material that is put into it is to stir a man's enthusiasm so that he will read the glaring ads., and buy goods."

This remark was made in the course of a brief off-hand speech, the proof of which was submitted to Prof. Graham before publication, and not altered by him. It was not a well considered statement, because it failed to discriminate between papers of the kind against which such an indictment would lie and others against which it would not.

The editor of *Poultry* (Peotone, Ill.), picks Prof. G. up on this, and wants him to apologize to the A. P. A. and the poultry press. We presume that Mr. Graham would admit that he didn't mean just what he said, and that if the matter had been brought to his attention before or at the time the proof was submitted, he would have qualified his statement. We can see no harm in his apologizing to the poultry press if he feels so disposed. For ourselves, we are quite indifferent on that point. What particularly interests us in connection with the case is that our esteemed contemporary, *Poultry*, in the same issue in which it finds against Prof. Graham for *lese majeste*, has a very eulogistic notice of "The Dollar Hen," which we reviewed in our last issue. Readers will recall that Mr. Hastings' allusions to the poultry press were not more complimentary than those to which editor Purvis takes warm exception.

The question naturally arises had the editor of *Poultry* read "The Dollar Hen" when he so heartily recommended it to his readers? If he had, why did he not take offense at its reflections on poultry literature? If he had not, how could he recommend it to his readers? (Query.—Ought the fact that Prof. Graham's speech was reported in a pamphlet for free distribution, while a poultry paper might make something on sales of the book containing Mr. Hastings' views to be considered here?) We very much fear that a good many of the contemporaries who are booming Mr. Hastings' book have not read it.

The Charge Against the Poultry Press.

SUCH charges as have been made by Prof. Graham and Mr. Hastings contain a proportion of truth. As applied to some papers, they contain far too much truth. They are, as the case may be, half-truths, or more or less than half-truths,—most difficult things to deal with in general statements, and therefore good for the impromptu speaker or the young writer to avoid. Poultry journalists may discuss the shortcomings of the press with some freedom, but the layman who undertakes to do so publicly must in the first place be sure that he knows what he is talking about, and can say what he means—neither more or less, and in the second place must be sure that he can publish the faults of the press without giving greater prominence to his own follies.

In the exercise of the journalist's privilege of speaking his own mind freely we say without hesitation, yet advisedly, that there is a lot of truth in the saying that a poultry

paper is gotten up for the sucker, for the man who wants to buy something.

It does not follow, however, that publishers, editors, advertising managers, advertisers and contributors, are in a conspiracy to fleece such innocent "suckers," as may be or become interested in poultry. On the contrary (and we write from a considerable acquaintance with all kinds and conditions of men who take an interest in poultry), almost without exception people with methods and ideas, and articles which many poultry keepers test to their loss and sorrow are themselves firm believers in what they offer the public. As Burns says:—

"I'll no say men are villains a!
The real, harden'd, wicked,
Wha hae nae check but human law,
Are to a few restricted—
But och! mankind are unco weak
An' little to be trusted:
If self the way'trin' balance shake,
It's rarely right adjust'd."

In the case of publisher, editor, and contributor, self interest urges very powerfully to adapt their offerings to the popular demands. And the greatest popular demand is not for plain unvarnished truths and for methods and ideas that have tested out to ordinary successes, but for great expectations and for new (and yet untested), methods and ideas that are to bring phenomenal successes.

The average novice who fills in any degree the specifications of a "sucker" is such from choice, and willful insistence on looking at things as he would like to have them. He has ample opportunities to learn about things as they are, but he will learn as a rule in only one way—by experience. Meantime he is the willing customer of the vender of novelties, and follower of peddlers of new ideas. 'Tis he creates the demand for these things, and when you look at the case from all sides you find one point of view from which the men who are said to work the suckers appear as the victims. It is the common experience of those who cater to the demands of "the man who wants to buy something," that that man soon fails them. He welcomes the new things with orders and testimonials. On the strength of these the man with something to sell prepares to manufacture to meet the demand. But, often, before his undertaking is well launched, those he thought would be permanent customers are chasing after something newer, and (as they assume) better. The "suckers" and "innocents" are not all on one side—not by any means.

Poultrymen and the Census.

AS a member of the special committee of the American Poultry Association to inquire into U. S. Government work affecting poultry interests, and endeavor to secure enlargement of such work along lines of most benefit to poultrymen, the editor of this paper has had some correspondence with the Director of the Census in regard to including in the census returns more complete returns for poultry products.

Among the first things we learned was that the Census Bureau had no authority to collect statistics of poultry, as such, though it had more than once requested congress to give it such authority. Under the law the enumeration of poultry and returns of values of poultry products are merely incidental to the census of "the farm." As is well known, there is an enormous amount of poultry in towns and cities which would not be included in a census of the farm as that term is commonly used. The Census Bureau, however, thinks that it may consider as "a farm" for census purposes a town or city poultry plant from which a considerable gross income, say, several hundred dollars, is derived annually, or if a considerable part of the time of one person is given to poultry. Florists' establishments come into the enumeration on this basis, the bureau being able to locate them and check the work of its enumerators by commercial lists of florists. No such lists of poultry plants are in existence, but we are informed that the bureau will shortly issue a circular letter through the poultry and agricultural press, asking to be supplied with the names and addresses of poultrymen in towns and cities producing enough to warrant including them in the farm census. Through the co-operation of the press and the various poultry associations it should be possible to make a quite complete list of this class of poultrymen in a short time. We believe that the press, the associations, and individuals as well will give the census officials all the assistance in their power. It is a matter really of more importance to poultrymen than to any one else.

The Census Bureau has already sent out a request to "farmers" to keep accounts in anticipation of the census enumerators' request for data. Statistics of this character are necessarily largely estimates, but even a partial record of a year's business makes estimates based on it of much more value than an estimate pure and simple.

Let us as poultrymen do all we can to make the work the census bureau can do for us now effective. Then let us see that the bureau gets proper backing when it goes to congress requesting authority to make a poultry census.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
1ST OF EACH MONTH.

FARM-POULTRY MONTHLY.

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Entered as second-class matter, June 22, 1908,
at the post office at Boston, Mass., under the
Act of March 3, 1879.

FARM-POULTRY PUBLISHING CO.,

JOHN H. ROBINSON, Editor.

232 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.

FRANK N. BARCELO, Advertising Manager.

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The Mission of the Poultry Show.*

MR. PRESIDENT, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is my purpose in the few remarks I shall make to give you as near as I can the true mission and purpose of the poultry show as I see it.

There is a widespread misapprehension as to just what a poultry show exists for. Most people imagine it to be a place where one poultry breeder may bring his fowls for the sole and simple purpose of winning over his neighbor, and that the winning of the prize constitutes the sole and only benefit to be gotten from the show; and a great many people imagine, too, that all sorts of tricks and unscrupulous cunning are resorted to to gain the desired end, and that the resultant pleasure from the receiving of the blue ribbon is about on a par with the winner of a boxing bout, an election bet, or a cock fight. And again, there are a great many people who hold the poultry show to be an amusement for the rich or for the indulgence of a mere fad, and that it has no place whatever in the solid commercial or educational pursuits of the world.

Now I will not say that a great deal of personal satisfaction is not derived from the winning of the blue. No breeder of fine poultry who has given his time, his talent, and his energy to the perfection of his favorite fowl can help but feel the warm glow of keen enjoyment when he sees the first prize ribbon hanging on his coop. There is undoubtedly a large element of personal satisfaction there; we would not be human if we did not feel elated at the success of our efforts along any line of endeavor. But the winning of a prize at a poultry show does not bring that same sense of satisfaction which accompanies the winning of a wager, or the depraved exultation of the victor in contests of brute strength alone; rather, in its stead, I should say that the winning of a prize at a poultry show carries with it a feeling of reward of merit for a task well done, or for duty well performed.

*Paper read by Thos. S. Meek, Secretary of the Tri-State Poultry Association, Wheeling, W. Va., at Institute of W. Va. Branch A. P. A., Charleston, Feb. 1, 1908.

As for the man who stoops to cunning or faking to gain the desired end, I believe his kind are few, so few indeed, as to be a negligible quantity, and whose race, in any event, is short and soon run. Nor is the poultry show merely a place to satisfy a fad of those who enjoy a large share of this world's goods. It is true that the raising and exhibiting of thoroughbred poultry is a source of much pleasure to those who engage in it, and that for this reason it has attracted to it a large following of the rich and well to do, but they are still in the very small minority, and likely will remain so. The advent of this class of poultry breeders is not, however, to be deplored, but rather encouraged. Poultry shows, as a rule, are not very flattering successes from a financial standpoint, and very often it is this class that supply the sinews of war at a critical moment.

The vast majority of the exhibitors at a poultry show are men of limited means, engaged in the poultry industry for both pleasure and profit, and to whom the latter is an object of as much solicitude as the former. There are very few exhibitors at our shows who are able each year to purchase new stock for the show room from some prominent breeder of national reputation, and of these few it may be said that their interest ceases with their first failure to land a goodly portion of the prizes. Most exhibitors grow their own stock, and this means that the few in the show room are but a small proportion of their flock, and that while during the show their interest may seem to center there the real truth is that it is the industry as a whole that claims their attention, and that the fowls in the exhibition coops represent only the cream of the flock, the rearing of which has been accompanied by serious and painstaking effort with a large flock, meeting every problem and obstacle within the range of poultry husbandry.

Considered separate and apart by itself, the raising of show room stock is not a profitable business; rather to the average exhibitor it is a source of expense, and it

is to the balance of his flock,—his utility birds—that he looks to make up the deficiency and leave a surplus beside. Thus, these two branches of the business, fancy and utility, are inseparably associated. The one could not exist without the financial support of the other, and the other depends on the eternal striving for a goal of perfection for its own ability to grow meat and lay eggs in sufficient quantity to be commercially profitable.

Thus the exhibitor, who is the backbone and mainstay of the show room, is in a larger sense to be considered as a poultry breeder, interested not only in the various nice distinctions of shape and color that mark the fowl of perfection, but interested equally as much, and very often more, in the solution of those perplexing problems of poultry husbandry that range all the way from the newly laid egg to the full grown fowl with all its attendant questions of feeding, housing, and care, and the increased egg production is often a subject of much greater interest than the elimination of white from the ear lobes or of smut from the undercolor.

The poultry show then that comes closest to fulfilling its mission is the one that takes for its watchword, "education." The show of greatest interest in the future will be the show that brings to its exhibitors and its patrons a full, complete, and comprehensive survey of the full extent of poultry husbandry. That will show not alone the finished product, but the ways and means that attended its making, and will afford to the novice and the expert, too, a place to seek and find knowledge as well as pleasure and amusement.

Now I know that to what I have just said a great many of you will take exception, and hold that the fancy fowl has no place in the utility flock, that the two are not related, and that the production of fancy fowls is detrimental to their utility. I believe that this criticism some years ago would have been well taken, but I do not believe it to be true today.

The sum and substance of the argument against the combination of the fancy and the utility lies in the fact that in the production of the former, vitality and inherited strength are lost sight of. I submit it

to you that the fancier who attempts to develop the fine points of his fowls at the expense of their vitality, will fail, and he ought to fail. If fancy fowls are to retain their place on earth, if they are to advance in points of excellence with each succeeding generation, they must have beneath their fine feathers a strong, vigorous, robust constitution, else their line will soon run out and vanish into obscurity. It is just as essential that a show bird be of good vitality as it is that an egg producer should possess that quality. Neither can long or profitably exist without it, and the mere fact that this is true constitutes one of the strongest reasons why a poultry show should afford an opportunity for education on this very point.

It is one thing to produce a single high scoring bird or a 200 egg pullet, and an entirely separate and distinct thing to produce a bird with these virtues, and in addition to them have the power to transmit these same virtues to coming generations, and in the effort to reach either of these ideals we must keep constantly in mind the vitality of the fowl, else perhaps we may by injudicious line breeding, or by unduly stimulating the egg producing organs destroy the power of transmission to the offspring of the very points we sought to attain.

One of the good signs for the future is the gradually growing preference for comparison judging in many of the best shows in the country. A disadvantage of the score card is that it does not always place the awards where they belong, oftentimes giving the prize to a bird on what you might term a mere technicality. Fanciers have recognized this fact for a long time, and the comparison show is steadily gaining in favor and popularity, which shows nothing more nor less than a growing recognition of the fact that the prize winner of the future must be a fine bird not technically but actually.

Granted then that the majority of the exhibitors at our shows are equally interested in the utility value of their fowls, and, granted, too, that the interests of both fancy and utility are closely and inseparably associated, and that they follow a common path in their efforts for betterment, what then is the real purpose

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it needs to fulfill to bring to the poultry industry the largest measure of good?

In a single word the mission of the poultry show is "education."

This does not mean that all other considerations are to be eliminated, that there is to be no pleasure, that there is to be no rivalry, no sense of satisfaction in the winning of the blue. These things must all remain attendant upon the show, but they must not overshadow or dwarf the real purpose of education.

After all, does not the poultry show stand in the relation of a post-graduate course. After we have been taught the fundamental principles of poultry husbandry, have we not yet to put our knowledge into action, to produce the thing we have been taught how to produce, and what better medium for the display of our efforts or for the interchange of knowledge can we find than the poultry show?

The poultry show of the future must have as one of its principal features a poultry institute: it must not only show the finished product, but it must go back and tell how that product was produced, and along what lines we can look for improvement. And then, is not the time propitious? It is difficult sometimes to carry back to your home a thought or

idea, but easy to remember when you have before you a living object lesson.

Now the working out of the ideas I have expressed will necessitate perhaps a rearranging of our present plans for poultry exhibitions; more than that, it may necessitate some changes in our standard as to just what constitutes a perfect fowl, but in either or both cases it will be a step in advance. If there is a point at which the virtues of beauty and utility diverge, we would be wise if we seek out and eliminate that point, and let these virtues find a common road to the ultimate goal of perfection.

The mission of the poultry show, then, is to offer us an opportunity to bring into competition the results of our knowledge and efforts applied to the living fowl, to add the spice and relish of a friendly rivalry, and last but not least, to offer an opportunity for the gaining of further knowledge to the end that each succeeding year may see our efforts more and more advanced, and that in the course of time a fowl shall be bred good not alone in fine points, but good also in the prolific production of eggs and meat, and that the profit paying hen shall no longer be the exception, but the established rule. I think you.

Two Views of the De Graff Case.

PLAY the game: At Niagara Falls, N. Y., this year was begun a new era in American Poultry Association affairs. Membership in the association now means more than it ever did before. It stands for protection against fraud and dishonesty. It means that those who will not live up to the high mark set by the association will suffer the penalty, and this without regard to standing or wealth of the transgressor. It means a purging from the ranks of the A. P. A. of those who pleasantly wink at wrong doing, and think it nothing but shrewdness or smartness. It means an uplifting to a higher moral plane of the whole business of poultry breeding, showing, and selling. The A. P. A. has said "stop," and the A. P. A. means it. Mr. De Graff is a man of standing in his community, an intelligent man who knows right from wrong. He did the acts he was accused of and punished for with his eyes open. In brief, he "took a chance." But in our calmer moments we must admit that he was also more or less the victim of a coalition that we have slowly but surely been arriving at for years, and which culminated in a stated case that did not lack full proof. The time had arrived when the good common sense and moral conviction of those who may be called leaders in the poultry world led them to say, "This shall go no further." Mr. De Graff was unfortunate in that his case came to the surface at the crisis. He was wrong, he admitted it, but did no more than is done by hundreds of others, if common report be true.

The moral sense of a great part of the poultry fraternity had become dulled. It needed such a lesson, and it got it. Punishment is not vindictive, or should not be so. Its greatest use is as a deterrent to others. That the unfortunate case in question will act in this way is a foregone conclusion. Tracey was guilty, undoubtedly so, but not to such an extent as the other man.

Feeling as we do that punishment should be corrective and preventive, not vindictive, that in the De Graff case, though he was admittedly guilty and deserving of all he got, was yet the pivotal point on which a change in A. P. A. policy occurred, we would be in favor of a favorable hearing, say one or two years hence, for reinstatement. His case and the hearing would be taken into consideration on any appeal for reinstatement.

Even with this action the ends of justice would be satisfied, and one such lesson in a lifetime is sufficient. —H. B. DORVAN, in *Canadian Poultry Review*.

As one of the executive committee of the New York State Rhode Island Red Club, and not being present at the late convention of the American Poultry Association, I rise to thank my poultry friend, Edward T. De Graff, for what appears to me to be a very unjust and serious charge, which

I saw published from the press dispatch in both our city papers.

Mr. De Graff and myself have long been members of the National, the American, and the State Rhode Island Red Clubs, and have done our part in helping to maintain and advance the interest in each and all of them.

I think I voice the sentiment of a very large majority of the Rhode Island Red breeders of the United States, when I say that Brother De Graff has done more to advertise and boom this popular breed of fowls, than all the rest of the members of these clubs combined. One has but to visit the De Graff poultry farm and see the money invested in the thousands of Reds, to behold the colony of poultry houses and necessary appliances connected with this plant — to know the hundreds of dollars paid out for the distribution of free circulars and elaborate illustrated catalogues — to know the vast sum of money paid to "Uncle Sam" for postage stamps — to know, as I know, being one of a party of some thirty of his poultry friends he entertained one night in the early spring, when we enveloped 5,000 of 10,000 free circulars for the next morning's mail, and you will well know that there is something doing at the little trolley station called "Tellers."

Do I see anything but envy and that "green eyed monster, jealousy," that would cause his expulsion from this association and club?

His borrowing or loaning birds, or plucking or finding colored feathers, just came to the notice of these organizations. — GEORGE VANDERVEER, in *Red Breeders' Bulletin*.

Rowland G. Buffinton.

At his home at Somerset, near Fall River, Mass., Rowland G. Buffinton passed away, on August 28th, in the 67th year of his age. Mr. Buffinton had been in failing health for a number of years. When the Massachusetts State Poultry Association was organized last spring he wrote the editor of this paper expressing his interest in the movement, and regret that he was no longer able to take an active part in efforts for the advancement of the poultry interests in Massachusetts with which he had been so long identified. Mr. Buffinton, in his long connection with poultry keeping, had handled many breeds of fowls, but for the last twenty years has specialized largely in buff and red varieties. He was associated to some extent with the late Dr. N. B. Aldrich, of Fall River, in introducing Buff Plymouth Rocks and Buff Wyandottes, and was one of the first exhibitors of those varieties. He is survived by a wife. His only child, a son, died some twenty-three years ago.

Norristown Poultry, Pigeon, and Pet Stock Association.

The Norristown Poultry, Pigeon, and Pet Stock Association, of Norristown, Pa., have elected the following officers for 1909: Pres. G. K. Morehead; 1st vice-pres., Wm. H. Patten; 2d vice-pres., A. J. Fell; sec'y-treas., Geo. C. Whittam; snp't of show, H. M. Kenner. The second annual show of this association will be held from Nov. 30 to Dec. 4, 1909. The following well known judges have been secured to place the awards in the poultry classes:— J. D. Nevius, Wm. J. Stokes, J. W. Poley, D. G. Witmyer, F. G. Bean, A. J. Fell.

"Tricks of the Poultry Trade."

The title of a book of 64 pages by Reese V. Hicks, editor of *Poultry Culture*, just issued by the Poultry Culture Pub. Co., Topeka, Kans., is a frank statement of both the "clever" and the "shady" tricks known to the author, the latter being published, it is stated, as a warning, and to enable the personally uninitiated to detect some of them. In justice to the poultry trade it must be said that but a small part of the book is devoted to real tricks of whatever character. The greater part of the matter is more accurately described as methods. Price of book 25c.

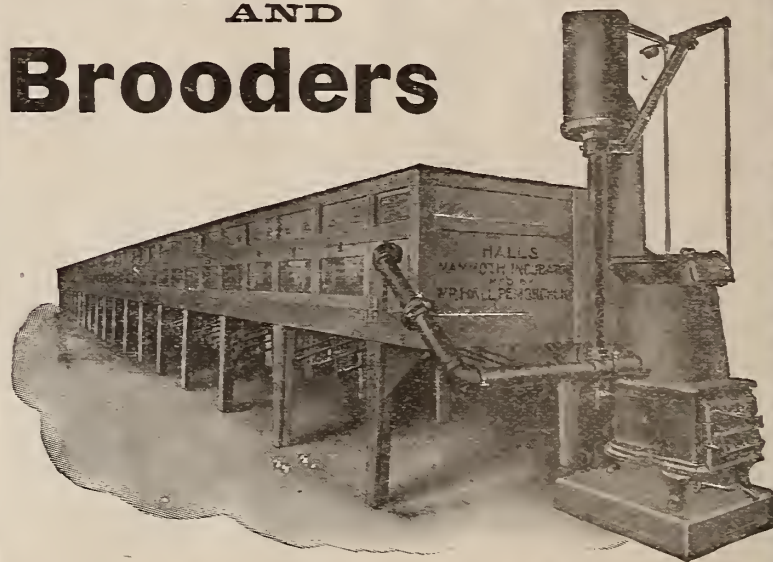
RESULTS

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READ THIS LETTER:

Ramsey, N. J., May 20th, 1909.

Hall Mammoth Incubator Co.,
South Columbia, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:—Some over a year ago you put in a 6000 egg incubator for us, and after over a year of use we wish to thank you for the great help it has been to us in our work of hatching chickens. We don't test eggs in the Hall machine, because the air circulation is so perfect that all eggs hatch that are fertile.

Now for the greatest thing of all—the chicks live and grow. We have pen after pen that are three to six weeks old that have not had a death. The cost of fire and labor is so small compared with the old oil machines that we hardly realize we have 6000 eggs set. Our machine was run the full year on two tons of pea coal at cost of \$9; two small lamps cost more to run than a 6000 egg Hall machine. Feeling sure that all who put in the Hall machine will make no mistake, you have the very best feeling of yours respectfully,

[Signed] DOWNS & WHEAT,
Ridge Poultry Farm, Ramsey, N. J.

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If you are an earnest poultryman, send for this book. It's FREE to you. It tells of the Mammoth Incubator that hatches more eggs and heavier and stronger chicks. It tells of the Brooding System in which there is less mortality, and faster growth. But, Hall Equipments not only increase the output in hatching and raising chicks—they lessen the labor and cost of fuel. The catalogue tells all about it. Send for the book today.

HALL MAMMOTH INCUBATOR CO.

Dept. F, South Columbia, N. Y.

Shows to Occur.

New England States.

- Nov. 30-Dec. 3, West Haven, Ct. F. J. Reveley, E. Haven, Sec'y.
Dec. 1-4, Springfield, Mass. E. P. Tilton, Sec'y.
Dec. 7-9, Bangor, Me. H. E. Farnham, Sec'y.
Dec. 8-9, Branford, Ct. Paul P. Ives, Guilford, Sec'y.
Dec. 8-11, Danbury, Ct. Card and Shaylor, Judges, Howard Mizner, Sec'y.
Dec. 9-11, Woonsocket, R. I. Chas. Richardson, Sec'y.
Dec. 14-17, Middletown, Ct. C. L. Fisk, Sec'y.
Dec. 27-Jan. 1, Manchester, N. H. O. S. Conery, Sec'y.
Dec. 28-30, Antrim, N. H. F. Grimes, Sec'y.
Jan. 4-7, Peterboro, N. H. Ballou, and Pierce, Judges, C. H. Weeks, Sec'y.
Jan. 11-16, Boston, Mass. W. B. Atherton, Sec'y.
Jan. 18-21, No. Adams, Mass. C. M. Ottman, Sec'y.
Jan. 18-21, Derry, N. H.

Middle States.

- Oct. 4-8, Hawley, Pa. W. A. Wolford, Sec'y.
Nov. 23-26, Nazareth, Pa. Geo. Koehler, Sec'y.
Nov. 23-26, Somerset, Pa. C. McClave, Judge, Ed. Shaffer, Sec'y.
Nov. 23-27, Dover, N. J. Stanton, and Huyler, Judges, W. H. Bidgood, Sec'y.
Nov. 23-27, Bridgeton, N. J. Stanton, Bean, and Holmes, Judges, Paul Springer, Sec'y.
Nov. 24-27, Mohnton, Pa. C. Corum, and G. Webb, Judges, Geo. Hatt, Sec'y.
Nov. 30-Dec. 4, Norristown, Pa. Geo. Whittam, Sec'y.
Dec. 1-4, Paterson, N. J. J. Woodruff, Athena, Sec'y.
Dec. 7-11, Reading, Pa. C. H. Glase, Sec'y.
Dec. 7-11, Monessen, Pa. S. Campbell, Judge, O. H. Thompson, Sec'y.
Dec. 7-11, Orange, N. J. Dreyenstedt, Davey, Purdine, and Stanton, Judges, Bryan K. Ogden, Sec'y.
Dec. 14-18, Batavia, N. Y. E. B. Peck, Sec'y.
Dec. 14-18, Schenectady, N. Y. I. L. Whitmyre, Sec'y.
Dec. 15-18, Apollo, Pa. Geo. Rudolf, Sec'y.
Dec. 16-18, Butlerford, N. J. R. H. Wilcox, Washington Place, Hasbrouck Heights, Sec'y.
Dec. 27-Jan. 1, McKeesport, Pa. W. Soles, 214 5th Avenue, Sec'y.
Dec. 27-Jan. 2, Hamburg, N. Y. Edward C. Pease, Sec'y.
Dec. 28-Jan. 1, E. Greenville, Pa. W. T. Wittman, Judge, F. G. Christman, Sec'y.
Jan. 4-8, Hornell, N. Y. J. Bicknell, and F. Corey, Judges, L. O. Thompson, 45 Sawyer St., Sec'y.
Jan. 10-16, Rochester, N. Y. Webb, Denny, Gardner, Stanton, Cornish, and Mauder, Judges, F. A. Newman, Box 472, Sec'y.
Jan. 11-14, Pulaski, N. Y. J. W. Parkhurst, Sec'y.
Jan. 11-14, Elmira, N. Y. Harry Hayes, Sec'y.
Jan. 17-21, Utica, N. Y. Austin Warner, New York Mills, Sec'y.
Jan. 17-22, Canonsburg, Pa. T. Campbell, Judge, Geo. McPeake, Sec'y.
Jan. 19-22, New Brighton, Pa. A. Kummer, Judge, J. M. Ecoff, Beaver, Sec'y.
Jan. 19-22, E. Pembroke, N. Y. E. E. Banks, Sec'y.
Jan. 24-28, New Berlin, N. Y. J. Jaquins, Judge, K. F. Talbot, Sec'y.
Jan. 25-29, Buffalo, N. Y. C. Standart, 309 Brisbaue Bldg., Sec'y.
Jan. 25-29, Parkers Landing, Pa. W. Pierce, Judge, J. S. Brady, Sec'y.

Southern States.

- Nov. 8-13, Augusta, Ga. W. A. Hernan, Sec'y.
Nov. 30-Dec. 2, Spartausburg, S. C. C. W. Anderson, Sec'y.
Dec. 6-11, Louisville, Ky. T. Falkner, Judge, S. M. Mittall, Sec'y.
Dec. 8-14, Lebanon, Tenn. W. A. Hale, Sec'y.
Dec. 13-18, Meridian, Miss. F. Marshall, Judge, Fred R. Ziller, Sec'y.
Dec. 16-18, Pulaski, Tenn. Lewis Culps, Sec'y.
Dec. 23-Jan. 1, Huntington, W. Va. T. Campbell, Judge, F. Summers, Sec'y.
Jan. 3-7, Grafton, W. Va. T. Falkner, Judge, W. Tibbets, Sec'y.
Jan. 5-8, Knoxville, Tenn. John Jennings, Sec'y.
Jan. 10-19, Lexington, Ky. F. Marshall, Judge, F. L. Smith, Sec'y.
Jan. 11-14, Smithfield, W. Va. E. Sites, Judge, E. Cunningham, Sec'y.
Jan. 12-14, Herndon, Va. Wittman, and Diffendorf, Judges, A. Kirk, Sec'y.
Jan. 13-19, Richmond, Va. I. Dreyenstedt, and C. H. Graham, Judges, W. R. Todd, 426 No. 6th St., Sec'y.
Jan. 14-18, Charlotte, N. C. W. Wittman, Judge, E. G. Wardin, Sec'y.

Near West States.

- Oct. 1-2, Gaylord, Mich. G. H. Van Dorn, Sec'y.
Oct. 2-5, Inlay City, Mich. F. Rathburg, Sec'y.
Oct. 5-8, Fowlerville, Mich. C. E. Dunnston, Sec'y.
Oct. 19-21, Clay City, Ill. A. Hostetter, Sec'y.
Oct. 21-22, Girard, Ill. O. McCord, Judge, H. Rathgeber, Sec'y.
Nov. 22-26, DuQuoin, Ill. Edw. Teaney, Sec'y.
Nov. 29-Dec. 3, Ashley, Ohio. T. Falkner, Judge, E. C. Sipe, Sec'y.
Nov. 29-Dec. 4, Quincy, Ill. Russell, Judge, F. Reynolds, Sec'y.
Nov. 30-Dec. 3, Marion, Ohio. C. McClave, Judge, M. G. Dieklison, Sec'y.
Nov. 30-Dec. 3, Gaudenlitten, Ohio. P. Feil, Judge, F. R. Grey, Sec'y.
Nov. 30-Dec. 5, Cincinnati, O. Pierce, and Brown, Judges, Dr. O. S. Rightmire, 4140 Hamilton Ave., Sec'y.
Nov. 30-Dec. 6, Kenosha, Wis. F. Shellabarger, and G. Hackett, Judges, E. Huber, Sec'y.
Dec. 1-4, Reading, Mich. Harry Adams, Sec'y.
Dec. 1-4, Taylorville, Ill. J. Rapp, Judge, C. A. Moxley, Sec'y.
Dec. 1-4, Salem, Mich. R. Otto, Judge, F. Roberts, Sec'y.
Dec. 6-11, Kewanee, Ill. Warnock, Judge, E. E. Johnson, Sec'y.

- Dec. 6-11, Mansfield, O. C. McClave, Judge, S. F. Ottinger, Sec'y.
Dec. 6-11, Shelbyville, Ind. W. C. McKenny, Sec'y.
Dec. 6-12, Hamilton, O. W. Zike, Judge, W. McKenny, Sec'y.
Dec. 7-9, Brighton, Ill. Russell Canby, Sec'y.
Dec. 7-10, Ithaca, Mich. Otto, and Wise, Judges, E. J. McCall, Sec'y.
Dec. 7-11, Upper Sandusky, O. W. Pierce, Judge, I. P. Cammaru, Sec'y.
Dec. 7-11, Mason, Mich. W. Wise, Judge, M. Dickerson, Sec'y.
Dec. 7-12, Chicago, Ill. Theo. Hewes, Indianapolis, Ind., Sec'y.
Dec. 8-11, Warren, O. E. Sites, Judge, Wm. Cobb, Sec'y.
Dec. 13-16, Farina, Ill. C. McClave, Judge Oscar Wells, Sec'y.
Dec. 13-17, Bradford, Ill. O. McCord, Judge, B. Phenix, Sec'y.
Dec. 13-17, Bryan, O. J. Tucker, Judge, T. E. Schrider, Sec'y.
Dec. 13-17, Princeton, Ill. W. Warnock, Judge, W. Asche, Sec'y.
Dec. 13-18, Mattoon, Ill. S. Lane, Judge, A. F. Fuller, Sec'y.
Dec. 13-18, Aledo, Ill. B. Dinwiddie, Judge, H. Morgan, Sec'y.
Dec. 13-19, Beloit, Wis. G. A. Miller, Sec'y.
Dec. 14-17, Newton, Ill. E. Martin, Sec'y.
Dec. 14-18, Grand Ledge, Mich. W. Wise, Judge, J. R. Patten, Sec'y.
Dec. 14-18, Peoria, Ill. Keeler, Stanfield, and Ewald, Judges, Frank Rue, 420 S. Adams St., Sec'y.
Dec. 14-18, Erlaua, O. C. Hoppersett, Sec'y.
Dec. 14-18, Wapakoneta, O. S. Case, Judge, John Lear, Sec'y.
Dec. 14-18, Pana, Ill. B. Myers, Judge, J. A. Bickerdike, Millersville, Sec'y.
Dec. 14-18, So. Haven, Mich. Harshall Mackey, Sec'y.
Dec. 15-19, Coldwater, Mich. F. Heck, Judge, Chas. Keep, Sec'y.
Dec. 15-20, Oconomowoc, Wis. Tucker, and Vanselew, Judges, O. R. Eddy, Sec'y.
Dec. 21-23, LaCrosse, Wis. F. Shellabarger, Judge, Jos. Poehling, 1517 Farewell St., Sec'y.
Dec. 22-24, Georgetown, O. C. Cram, Judge, Frank Moyer, Sec'y.
Dec. 27-31, Dixon, Ill. A. G. Hill, Sec'y.
Dec. 27-Jan. 1, Sheridan, Ind. J. Richardson, Sec'y.
Dec. 27-Jan. 1, Elgin, Ill. T. Falkner, Judge, W. W. Britton, Sec'y.
Dec. 27-Jan. 1, Young America, Ind. J. Long, Judge, A. D. Wood, Sec'y.
Dec. 27-Jan. 1, Lansing, Mich. J. Tucker, and W. Wise, Judges, J. A. Turner, 703 Seymour St., Sec'y.
Dec. 28-31, Stevens Point, Wis. J. Greenwald, Judge, T. Blood, Sec'y.
Dec. 28-31, Elmore, Ohio. Geo. Weis, Sec'y.
Dec. 28-31, Plymouth, Ohio. T. Falkner, Judge, C. Seville, Sec'y.
Dec. 28-31, Dayton, Ohio. W. Pierce, Judge, C. R. Gardner, Sec'y.
Dec. 28-Jan. 1, So. Bend, Ind. T. Hewes, Judge, P. Heiermann, 1716 So. Mich. St., Sec'y.
Dec. 29-Jan. 2, Hartsville, Ohio. R. J. Pilgrim, Sec'y.
Dec. 30-Jan. 2, Holland, Mich. C. McClave, Judge, Fred Kiehn, Sec'y.
Dec. 31-Jan. 3, Fond du Lac, Wis. T. Campbell, Judge, E. Zamzow, Sec'y.
Jan. 2-7, Sylvania, Ohio. Mullinix, Stanfield, and Emch, Judges, W. B. Harris, Sec'y.
Jan. 3-8, Polo, Ill. D. Hale, Judge, Frank Niman, Sec'y.
Jan. 3-8, Bushnell, Ill. McClaskey, Judge, F. P. Nessel, Sec'y.
Jan. 3-10, Michigan City, Ind. Stoner, Judge, A. L. Peterson, 409 Karl Road, Sec'y.
Jan. 4-7, Edon, Ohio. J. Long, Judge, S. Kaiser, Sec'y.
Jan. 4-8, Elyria, Ohio. Kellar, and Feil, Judges, A. J. Lannond, Sec'y.
Jan. 4-8, Kendallville, Ind. J. Tucker, Judge, Amos Fulk, 230 Sheridan St., Sec'y.
Jan. 5-8, Allegan, Mich. W. Warner, Jr., Sec'y.
Jan. 5-10, Oshkosh, Wis. Tucker, and Russell, Judges, Carl Krippene, Sec'y.
Jan. 10-14, Mineral Point, Wis. T. Rountree, Judge, Allen Tucker, Sec'y.
Jan. 10-15, Youngstown O. McClave, Tompkins, and Wolsiefer, Judges, R. L. Davies, 210 Broaden St., Sec'y.
Jan. 10-15, Marietta, O. F. Snodgrass, Sec'y.
Jan. 10-15, Rockford, Ill. Russell, and Heimlich, Judges, Chas. Gilbert, Sec'y.
Jan. 10-15, Defiance, Ohio. J. Long, Judge, W. Stever, Sec'y.
Jan. 10-15, Bloomington, Ind. W. Vonberlin, Sec'y.
Jan. 10-15, Monmouth, Ill. Warnock, Judge, S. L. Hamilton, Sec'y.
Jan. 10-16, Columbus, Ohio. R. Haswell, Circleville, Sec'y.
Jan. 11-14, Baraboo, Wis. E. Roberts, Judge, Geo. Hackett, No. Freedom, Sec'y.
Jan. 11-15, Tiffin, Ohio, Falkner, and Struble, Judges, V. Crabtree, Sec'y.
Jan. 12-16, Carlinton, O. S. Johnson, Judge, D. Babson, Sec'y.
Jan. 12-18, Detroit, Mich. M. E. Green, 217 E. Encid Ave., Sec'y.
Jan. 13-15, Drovers Grove, Ill. W. Russell, Judge, Geo. Kline, Sec'y.
Jan. 17-21, Wooster, Ohio, Phil Rice, Sec'y.
Jan. 17-21, Goslen, Ind. J. Mullinix, Judge, H. Krutz, Sec'y.
Jan. 17-22, Akron, O. J. W. Grauthier, Sec'y.
Jan. 17-22, Lowell, Ind. Frank Malloy, Sec'y.
Jan. 17-22, Galesburg, Ill. T. Falkner, Judge, O. Judson, Sec'y.
Jan. 17-22, Wakeman, O. C. McClave, Judge, C. H. Figuers, Sec'y.
Jan. 18-21, Grove Hill, Ohio. W. Fletcher, Sec'y.
Jan. 18-22, Lozansport, Ind. J. Long, Judge, Wm. Grace, Jr., Sec'y.
Jan. 18-22, Huntington, Ind. I. Keller, Judge, Harry Young, Sec'y.
Jan. 18-22, Van Wert, Ohio, A. Shaner, Judge, R. P. Everly, Sec'y.
Jan. 19-23, Three Rivers, Mich. J. Tucker, Judge, Gebhardt, Sec'y.



(See letter below)

Advertisement for Amatite Roofing. Features the brand name 'Amatite' in a large, stylized font with a 'B' logo. Below it, the word 'ROOFING' is written in bold, capital letters. The text describes the product's benefits, such as being waterproof and durable, and includes a testimonial from Amos C. Case. It also provides contact information for Barrett Manufacturing Company in Colchester, Connecticut.

Advertisement for 'THREE WEEKS SHORT COURSE' in Poultry Keeping. The text is enclosed in a decorative border. It states the course is given by the College of Agriculture of the University of Maine, running from October 25th to November 15th, 1909. This is followed by a 'Three Days Poultry Institute' on Nov. 16, 17, and 18. It mentions that many prominent poultrymen will be present and provides contact information for the College of Agriculture in Orono, Maine.

Advertisement for 'MODEL' poultry equipment. The word 'MODEL' is written in large, bold, outlined letters. Below it, the text reads 'Incubators, Brooders Poultry Supplies and Remedies' and 'Recognized Standard of Excellence'. It describes the equipment as being suitable for profitable fall hatching and early winter brooding, and provides the address: MODEL INCUBATOR CO., 4 Henry Street, BUFFALO, N. Y.

To say, when writing advertisers, "SAW AD. IN FARM-POULTRY," will benefit you — please them—and help us.

Jan. 24-28. Green Bay, Wis. W. Ellison, Judge. F. Jomet, Sec'y.

Jan. 17-22. Cedar Rapids, Iowa. S. Wiley, Sec'y.

Make Hens Lay When Eggs Are Worth Most. This Book Tells How. SEND FOR IT. F. W. MANN & CO., Box 55, Milford, Mass.

Central West States.

Oct. 2-8. Sedalia, Mo. J. T. Stinson, Sec'y.

Nov. 21-27. Alameda, Cal. W. Denny, Judge. A. E. Norton, Sec'y.

Show Notes.

The Kansas State Poultry Show will be held this season at Wichita, Jan. 10-15, 1910.

The Boyer Valley Poultry Association holds its fifth annual show at Dunlap, Ia., Dec. 17-21, 1909.

Oconomowoc Poultry and Pet Stock Association show dates are Dec. 15-20, 1909.

The Peterboro, N. H., Poultry, Pigeon, and Pet Stock Exhibition will be held Jan. 4-7, 1910.

The Utica Poultry and Pet Stock Association will hold its fourth annual exhibition at Utica, N. Y., Jan. 17-21, 1910.

The Northwestern Ohio Poultry and Pet Stock Association holds its next show at Tiffin, Jan. 11-15, 1910.

The Polo Poultry Association holds its seventh annual exhibition at Polo, Ill., Jan. 3-8, 1910.

The Northern Berkshire Poultry Association show will be held at North Adams, Mass., Jan. 18-21, 1910.

Dec. 1-3. Denton, Tex. C. E. Sernggs, Sec'y.

Jan. 17-22. Cedar Rapids, Iowa. S. Wiley, Sec'y.

The Great Boston Show. Back Volumes Wanted.

Plans for the great Boston show have been under way for some time, and in spite of the fact that the show of last winter was a record breaker...

To supply a limited demand for back volumes to complete files of FARM-POULTRY for libraries, and for persons engaged in educational or experimental poultry work...

NO REPAIRS on THE WELD THAT HELD AND IT LASTS YEARS AND YEARS

Pittsburgh Perfect Poultry Fence. Buy the best fence made—that's true economy. The best is the strongest, the simplest, the most serviceable, the most durable. It is the Pittsburgh Perfect Poultry Fence. Wires electrically welded at every contact point.

Polar Discovery—Laying Competition

THE controversy over the discovery of the north pole is not without significance to the poultry world, though from all accounts the climate of that region is not adapted to poultry keeping.

The point of interest is the fact that scientists, great and small, are men of like passions with ourselves, and that the mere assertion of a man who is, or calls himself a scientist, need not always be accepted as truth which it is wrong to doubt, and an affront to science and the scientists to question.

Making great egg records in some ways resembles exploring high latitudes. The facts can be known only to a few. The rest of interested mankind has to judge of the truth of the report of the few as to the facts partly on the reputation of those making the reports, and partly on the relations of the alleged facts to establish facts regarding similar events or performances.

In Australia and New Zealand the favorite form of competition among poultrymen seems to be the "egg laying competition." From these competitions a few years ago began to come "records" astonishing to the rest of the world. Elsewhere in public competitions 200 egg averages were almost unknown. We do not recall any. In these far off lands they began to be common in laying contests. About a year ago we received the report of a competition at the Roseworthy Agricultural College, South Australia, where out of 75 pens of 6 hens each in the competition, 14 averaged over 200 eggs per hen—two of these pens being reported as going over 250 per hen. In commenting on these records at the time, we said: "Far be it from us to deny that these records, made under government supervision, are not in every respect absolutely trustworthy. We were not there. We did not see and count the eggs. We can even figure out that such records are possible. At the same time we should do violence to our own judgment and the teachings of a long experience if we placed implicit confidence in such records."

For this attitude we were taken to task by some readers and a few contemporaries, who took the position that the records, however seemingly improbable, must be accepted until disproved, because they were "official," or "made under supervision of disinterested parties," etc., etc.

Recently we have received another report of a laying competition at Roseworthy. This time there were only 50 pens in the competition, yet 18 of them are reported as averaging over 200 eggs per hen. What interests us more, however, in this latest report, is the opportunity it affords to judge the quality of the expert supervisor of the competition as an accurate reporter of facts and a man careful in forming and expressing opinions. We are interested, too, in some statements of conditions about the competition.

Referring to "the 200-egg hen," Mr. D. F. Laurie, the expert, says: "Recently the English poultry press has been inundated with correspondence on this subject, and the generally expressed opinion might be summed up as distinctly against the existence of a strain of such layers. There are hundreds of breeders in Australia who would give up the business if they had not such strains in their possession."

In another place we find this statement: "What can be done at the Government Poultry Station should be equally possible on any private farm. If at Roseworthy the mixed lot of 336 fowls, some good and some poor layers, can average a profit over cost of food of 8s. 1d. per hen, it is evident that a flock of layers such as any competent breeder might own should at least equal if not excel that return."

This is sophistry, and of the cheapest sort. Let us assume for the sake of the argument that the facts as to the egg production in these competitions are exactly as reported. Let us assume, also, that in addition to having produced phenomenal laying strains, the competitors in these laying contests have developed remarkably accurate judgment in selecting hens for entry in the competitions. Then the condition at the Government Poultry Sta-

tion is that there are kept in small flocks given special attention the supposed cream of the efforts of a large number of persons breeding for high egg production. On a private farm there would be not the best efforts of several scores of breeders, but the entire stock of one breeder.

In still another place Mr. Laurie says: "To compete in a test such as * * * a breeder must hatch and rear a fair number of chickens in order to have sufficient pullets from which to select his team and retain a few of equal quality, age, etc., for emergencies. To have any chance of success, not only must the pullets be of very good laying strain, but in addition they must be hatched at the right time, and fed and housed to best advantage."

"A fair number" is very indefinite, but the passage suggests that it is somewhat usual for competitors to produce just about what they think they need to furnish pullets for the competition. That in turn suggests small flocks grown with very special care. These are not farm or commercial conditions, nor are the conditions under which the hens are kept during the competition. If the Government Poultry Station wants to show what can be done on a private farm, let them breed their own stock, handle it in larger flocks, keep account of labor, and show just what the experts can do with a general stock.

A point of importance in view of the fact that most of the hens in the competitions are Leghorns, and the highest records are usually made by Leghorns, is the frequent presence of visitors of whom it is said, "there were a very considerable number." At the Guelph, Ont., Agricultural College, Leghorns have generally been below American and English breeds in egg production, and the reason given by Prof. Graham, is that the Leghorns are more disturbed by the visitors, of whom the plant has a great many. Are the Australian Leghorns free from the nervousness which characterizes the breed elsewhere? Are they indifferent to disturbances?

According to Mr. Laurie the Australian breeders of 200-egg strains have reached a pinnacle of wisdom in the laws of breeding and of skill in their application that considering how short a time they have devoted themselves to breeding for eggs, is, to the rest of us, marvelous. All this information, and more comment along the same lines, is given in general terms, which may be appropriate for this particular report, but noting its deficiencies from the point of view of the man who wants data from which to decide how far Mr. Laurie's generalities are warranted by the facts upon which they are based, we would suggest that the educational value of the competitions would be greater if the records gave us more information as to the pedigrees of the birds competing. We have not yet had time to forget that analysis of the records of the Maine experiments sometimes failed to support the general statements of the bulletins.

The controversy over the discovery of the north pole quickly enlightened the public as to the true nature of the devotion of some scientists to science. The discoveries were in line for great financial rewards for books, lectures, articles, etc., to say nothing of honors. Not only so, but from the moment they got in touch with civilization they were seen to be looking out for No. 1, with a shrewdness and alacrity supposed to belong only to souls not devoted to "science."

So it is easy to see in the Australian situation where benefits accrue to others than the breeders from sensational results in laying competitions. Mr. Laurie remarks: "The world wide celebrity of our laying records shows that these competitions serve as a fine advertisement to the state." He had already stated, "There is little doubt that the climate makes the state one if not the best in the world for egg production." Here again experience elsewhere seems to differ from that in South Australia. An idea of the climate may be gained from the fact that at one time during the year the thermometer stood at 115° in the shade. FARM-POULTRY has several times collected egg statistics from breeders scattered over this country, but we never found the hot sections best for egg production.

Throw Away the Dangerous Oil Lamps and Other Old Fashioned Methods

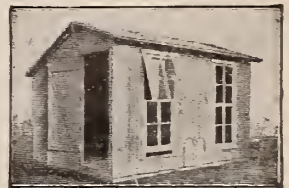
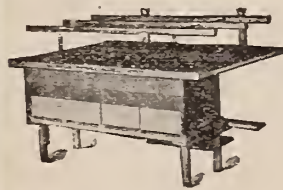


THIS is the System that is Saving Money and Brooding Stronger Chicks for Progressive Poultrymen. Write for full particulars—Free. HOT WATER heat cheap and healthy; Automatic TEMPERATURE REGULATOR that absolutely insures even temperature desired. Heavier construction that prevents crowding and is easy to clean.

Candee Hot Water Brooder Co., Box F, Dewitt, N. Y.

DON'T BUILD

that new hen house or fix up the old one until you get our large new 100 pp. catalog (over 100 illustrations) telling all about Potter Poultry House Fixtures, Perfection Feed Hoppers, Simplex Trap Nests, feeds and supplies of all kinds. Potter Fixtures have been on the market over 8 years, and are used by thousands of poultry keepers. They are complete, convenient, and sanitary; made in 3 styles and 12 sizes to fit any hen house.



We now make the complete line of PORTABLE (K.D.) HOUSES, BROOD COOPS, PIGEON LOFTS, etc., formerly made by the Morgan Sanitary House Co., of Lemont, Ills. These are made in 20 different styles and sizes, and if you want a complete, up-to-date and cheap house or coop of any kind you should not fail to send for large illustrated catalog telling all about these goods.

DON'T KILL or sell the laying hens; use the POTTER SYSTEM and pick out the layers from the loafers, and keep only healthy laying hens. The Potter System is the greatest discovery of the century in the poultry world, and is used by over 25,000 poultry keepers. You can save dollars every year by using our system, because you keep only layers. Our new 100 pp. book entitled, "Don't Kill the Laying Hen," is a revelation to poultry raisers on the subject of laying and non-laying hens and egg production.

Potter Poultry products are for Particular Poultry People, and if you are particular and want to make more money on your flock you will write today, sending 2 red stamps to cover postage on our large catalog and circulars.

T. F. POTTER & CO., Box A, Downers Grove, Illinois

AMERICA'S GREATEST QUALITY SHOW.
POULTRY, PIGEONS, CATS, PET STOCK.

THE BOSTON SHOW
MECHANICS BUILDING.
Jan 11-15, '10
ENTRIES CLOSE Dec 25, '09
For premium List and Entry Blanks.
Address BOSTON POULTRY ASSOCIATION,
30 Broad Street, Boston, Mass.

What They are Doing in Ohio.

EDITOR FARM-POULTRY:—The Ohio state fair just closed proved to be the most successful ever held. The attendance on Thursday exceeded by thirty thousand that of any other day in the history of the organization. The fair was open at night, which feature proved highly successful, and is to be made permanent.

It is of the poultry department I wish to speak in particular. For many years this has been one of the many leading features of this great fair. This season more than four thousand fowls were on exhibition, and the quality was the best ever brought together in this state. As Ohio ranks well to the front as one of the greatest poultry producing states, and as secretary Sandles of the state board of agriculture is a staunch friend of poultry, still greater attractions and inducements will be offered. The large poultry building will be remodeled, and more and better light furnished; an assembly room on the second floor is being planned for the accommodation of the poultry breeders, where meetings can be held and institutes provided for.

It has been suggested that the large well lighted center of the pavilion where the office now stands be used as a place to judge the fowls, the judges to stand in the center of a circle, where the fowls will be placed in wire coops, open on all sides, with a rope around the circle to prevent onlookers getting too close to the judges; here, in plain view of the exhibitors and spectators, all fowls to be judged, just as dogs, horses, cattle, sheep, and swine are judged, placing one class at a time in the ring,—such as all cock birds of one breed or variety,—the judge to tie the ribbons on the coops containing the winning birds in plain view of every one. When the fowls have been judged they will be removed by the superintendent and owners. This may seem like a radical departure from former methods of judging poultry, but is not the public ready for such a step, and is there not a demand for improvement in the present system of placing awards? This is an important problem, and we would like to hear from judges and breeders in general.

On Thursday, a meeting of the Ohio State Poultry Association was held, and the subject of state aid for the poultry industry was discussed at length. It was decided to appoint a committee to cooperate with a like committee from the Ohio branch to formulate plans for conducting an active campaign for securing an appropriation for poultry in Ohio. It is the intention to ask the state legislature for ten thousand dollars, this fund to be used in establishing a poultry department at the Ohio State University, and for institute work.

Inasmuch as Missouri and other states have secured financial aid, why not Ohio? We ask the assistance of every poultry breeder in the state, as well as every friend of poultry, feeling confident that with a united effort, the long neglected poultry industry of the Buckeye state will receive its just reward.

At a meeting of the Ohio branch of the American Poultry Association held in the woman's building on the fair grounds, Sept. 2d, with fifty members answering to roll call, much enthusiasm was manifested.

The Ohio branch is alive to its opportunities and advantages.

S. T. CAMPBELL.

Mansfield, Ohio.

American Breeders' Association Meeting.

The sixth annual meeting of the American Breeders' Association is called for December 8—10, at Omaha, Nebr., in association with the National Corn Show, held at that place December 6—18. A program of addresses by prominent breeders of live stock, prominent breeders of plants, and scientists prominent in the study of the heredity of plants, animals, and men, is being prepared.

Arrangements are being made to have many of the addresses illustrated with stereopticon views and moving pictures.

W. M. HAYS, Sec'y.

Washington, D. C.
July 30, 1909.

MARKET REVIEW.

BOSTON.

Boston Produce Market Report.

Eggs.

Receipts today, 5,467 cases; same time last year, 3,679 cases; receipts six days, 23,318 cases; same time last year, 19,422 cases.

Receipts were liberal today. Trade is quiet, and the tone of the market no more than steady. Fresh gathered western have to be better than the average to exceed 23c., and a good many have to go at a lower range. Best western are selling generally at 24 @ 24½c., with choice graded and candled northwestern at 25c. Dirties range from 15 @ 19c., as to quality. Fancy all brown henner eggs bring 34c. April refrigerator firsts held at 25 @ 25½c.

QUOTATIONS AT MARK.

Fancy henner	.....33. @34
Me., Vt., N. H., extras	.....30. @31
Me., Vt., N. H., common to good	.....23. @25
Northwestern graded and candled	.....24. @25
Western best fresh gathered	.....24. @24½
Western common to good	.....18. @23
Western dirties	.....15. @19

Dressed Poultry.

Receipts today, 391 pkgs; same time last year, 562 pkgs; receipts six days, 2,328; same time last year, 3,735 pkgs.

Receipts are moderate, and the market steady and unchanged. Choice western iced fowls are selling generally at 18c., with some selected large at 18½c., and light weights at 17 @ 17½c. Strictly fancy 2 lb. broilers in moderate supply, and fairly firm at 18c. Mixed weights have to sell for the most part at 15½ @ 16c. Old cocks steady at 13c.

Fancy large western dry packed fowls in boxes in limited supply at 18½ @ 19c.

Nearby broilers steady, and fancy roasting chickens keep well sold up, but mixed weights move slowly. Ducks in good supply, 18c., about top for best.

FRESH KILLED.

Northern and Eastern—

Fowls, choice	.....19. @20
Fowls, common to good	.....15. @
Roasting chickens, 4 1/2 to 5 lbs.	.....23. @25
Chickens mixed weights	.....18. @20

Nearby Broilers—

Choice 3 1/2 to 4 lbs. to pair, 3 lb.	.....20. @21
Ducks, native green	.....18. @
Pigeons, choice, 3 doz.	.....\$1 75. @
Pigeons, com. to good	.....75 @ \$1 00
Squabs, 3 doz.	.....2 00 @ 2 50

Western Ice Packed—

Fowls, choice	.....18. @18½
Fowls, fair to good	.....17. @17½
Broilers, fancy, 3 lb.	.....17½. @18
Chickens, mixed weights	.....15½. @16½
Old cocks	.....13. @
Turkeys, spring	.....20. @25
Turkeys, old	.....18. @19

Live Poultry.

Receipts were heavy today, and best lots of chickens and fowls will probably have to sell at 15½c., but the price had not been fully settled at noon.

Chickens, broilers, 3 lb.	.....15. @15½
Fowls, 3 lb.	.....15. @15
Roosters, 3 lb.	.....10. @
Young Pekin ducks 3 lb.	.....16. @17
Old ducks	.....10½. @

Secretaries of Poultry Associations Take Notice.

As secretary of the American Black Minorca Club, and of the International Rose Comb Black Minorca Club, I am authorized by both clubs to offer ribbons respectively for Single and Rose Comb Black Minorca exhibits in the leading shows of the United States and Canada. Therefore I take this way to say to the secretaries of poultry shows: If you will print the following offers in your premium lists, and send me a copy of the premium list as soon as printed, I will send you attractive card certificate to hang on the coops of winning Minorcas. These cards are to be returned to me by the show secretary at the close of the show, filled out with the name and address of the successful exhibitor, and signed by the show secretary. I will send ribbons in exchange for the cards to the successful exhibitors who are members of the club, and will keep the cards on file as records for future reference.

OFFER OF RIBBONS.—The International Rose Comb Black Minorca Club offers special ribbons each for 1st prize Rose Comb Black Minorca cock, hen, cockerel, pullet, and pen, to be competed for by members of the club and applicants for membership who send \$2 fees for initiation and first year before the judging commences. The number of ribbons won will be credited to each winner in the club cat-

alogue, and championship will be awarded to the winner of the largest number of club ribbons in each state.

GEO. H. NORTHUP, Sec'y-treas.
Middle Granville, N. Y.

The American Black Minorca Club offers special ribbons each for 1st prize Single Comb Black Minorca cock, hen, cockerel, pullet, and pen. Competition open to members of the club and to breeders of Single Comb Black Minorcas who apply with \$2 for membership before the show opens. The number of ribbons won will be credited to each winner in the club catalogue, and championship will be awarded to each winner of the largest number of ribbons in each state.

GEO. H. NORTHUP, Sec'y-treas.
Middle Granville, N. Y.

Duck Competition at Brockton Fair.

Secretary Fred W. Rogers, of the Brockton fair poultry department, asks us to call public attention to an error in the premium list which makes it appear that old and young ducks compete together. There will be, as usual, separate classes for young and old ducks and drakes.

The Massachusetts Crop Report

For August, contains an article by Prof. F. C. Sears, Professor of Pomology at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, on "Western Methods in New England Orchardling." The article is illustrated with five fine half-tones. The report can be obtained by application to J. Lewis Ellsworth, Sec'y State Board of Agriculture, Boston, Mass.

PRATT'S ROUP CURE

Cures and Prevents Roup

Look out for roup from now on. Prevent it. See that the runs and henses are dry and clean, and give PRATT'S ROUP CURE frequently. It is a preventive as well as a cure. Give your hens

Pratt's Poultry Regulator

Keeps them in prime condition, and keeps them laying all winter. Remember Pratt's guarantee— "Your money back if any preparation fails to make good." Pratt's new Poultry Book sent free.

PRATT'S FOOD COMPANY,
Dept. S, Philadelphia.

WE WANT AGENTS

In every town and city to demonstrate and sell

FARMERS' MODERN EGG CRATES



Eggs are delivered in Farmers' Modern Egg Crates without breakage. This means a saving of \$10,000-500,000 yearly. One dollar starts you in business. Write to-day, enclosing \$1.00 for instructions and sample outfit. **STAR EGG CARRIER & TRAY CO., 726 Exchange St., Rochester, N. Y.**

Chas. A. Cyphers

In the November Issue will announce his new

Buffalo Incubator

A year ahead in design, and you will get it at

Half the Standard Price

Saves Time, Saves Labor, Saves Money

Register for a Catalogue and Bulletin No. 2, which tells of a new discovery. Address:

477 ELLICOTT SQ., -- BUFFALO, N. Y.

First Aid

There's not a household anywhere that pain has not visited or will visit sometime. It may be to-day—to-morrow—or a year hence, but when pain does come you'll need something for it mighty quick. If you have a roll of bandage and

Johnson's Anodyne Liniment

handy you are well prepared. It may be a bad sprain, strain, sore muscle, swelled joint, ache, muscular rheumatism, a cut, burn, scald, sting, frostbite, chilblains; for any of these apply the liniment externally and you will get quick relief. No household should be without it. Athletes and others who lead vigorous lives say there is nothing better for sore and tired muscles. Used everywhere for 98 years—reliable and effective. At all druggists—25 and 50c.

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 232 Summer St., Boston, Mass.



Massachusetts State Poultry Association Meeting.

At the Agricultural College and Experiment Station, Amherst, Mass., Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 12, 13, 1909.

THE Massachusetts State Poultry Association will hold its first annual field meeting at the Agricultural College and Experiment Station, at Amherst, Oct. 12, 13, with the following programme:—

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 2 O'CLOCK.

Addresses of Welcome—by Pres. Kenyon L. Butterfield, of the College, and Director Wm. P. Brooks, of the Station.

Response—by Henry D. Smith, Pres. Massachusetts Poultry Association.

Business meeting of the association.

Lecture and Demonstration—"Anatomy of the Fowl," Dr. James B. Paige, Professor of Veterinary Science, Mass. Agricultural College.

TUESDAY EVENING, 7.30 O'CLOCK

Question Box—Conducted by Prof. J. A. Foord.

Address—"Poultry in Massachusetts Agriculture," J. Lewis Ellsworth, Sec'y Mass. State Board of Agriculture.

Lecture—"Growing Crops for Poultry,"—Prof. W. D. Hurd, Director of Short Courses Mass. Agricultural College.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

Demonstrations—Caponizing, Killing, and Dressing Poultry, Selecting Market Poultry—J. H. Curtiss, Henry D. Smith, and others.

Talks by Prominent Breeders—the following Massachusetts breeders of national reputation have accepted invitations from the association to bring to this meeting typical specimens of varieties in which they are interested, and, using these as models, discuss their characteristics, qualities, mating, selecting for exhibition, etc. A part of these talks will be given in the morning, the rest in the afternoon. The division of the programme will be made to suit the convenience of those taking part in it.

A. C. Smith, Grove Hill Poultry Yards, Waltham, Barred Rocks and Brown Leghorns; C. E. Hodgkins, Northampton, White Rocks; A. G. Duston, South Framingham, White Wyandottes; A. C. Hawkins, Lancaster, Columbian Wyandottes; Lester Tompkins, Concord, Rhode Island Reds.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, 1.30 O'CLOCK.

Talks by Prominent Breeders.

Lecture—"Fruit Crops that Combine with Poultry Keeping"—Prof. F. C. Sears, Professor of Pomology, Mass. Agricultural College.

Address—"The State and the Poultryman," Prof. James E. Rice, Professor of Poultry Husbandry, N. Y. State College of Agriculture, Cornell University.

Inspection of the College and Station Farms and Equipment.

There will be ample opportunity before the meeting is called, between sessions, and after adjournment, for visitors to inspect the farms, buildings, equipment, and stock. For those who can reach Amherst early, Tuesday morning will be a most favorable time. Whenever possible arrangements will be made to enable visitors to see departments under most favorable conditions. Notices relating to these will be given at the meeting.

Transportation.

The lines in the New England Passenger Association, excepting the Eastern Steamship Co., the Metropolitan Steamship Co., and the Rutland R. R., have authorized a rate of a fare and three-fifths from all points in Massachusetts to Amherst for this meeting, on the certificate plan, on condition that there shall be in attendance at the meeting not less than 100 persons. To secure reduction those attending must get certificates when purchasing tickets to the meetings. If agent at their station is not supplied with certificates, they will inform as to nearest point at which certificates can be secured. Certificates must be deposited with secretary of the Mass. Poultry Association, with fee of 25 cents for validating same.

Accommodations.

The Amherst House will make a special rate for poultrymen, — 75 cts. per day for

room, \$2 per day for room and board. The College will furnish meals at 25 cts. for breakfast and supper, 35 cts. for dinner, but cannot furnish rooms.

Everybody Welcome.

The Massachusetts State Poultry Association cordially invites all poultrymen and all persons interested in poultry to attend this meeting. Membership in our association is open only to Massachusetts people, but our business meetings are public, and our institutes for all who will come.

Home Folks not More Welcome, but Most Wanted.

We invite everyone:—we urge Massachusetts people to come and make this first meeting of poultrymen of all kinds from all over the state a memorable one. Though our Agricultural College and Experiment Station are not yet doing all we think they ought to for poultry culture, they are doing splendid work in many other things poultrymen are interested in, and many of the men here who are specialists in other lines are interested in poultry. The program for this first meeting is most appropriately made up, almost wholly of workers in our own state. Come and get acquainted with them. Come and join our association, and work with us to advance poultry interests in Massachusetts, and to develop the resources of the commonwealth by building up one of her most important industries.

MASS. STATE POULTRY ASSOCIATION,
by John H. Robinson, Sec'y.

Winter Course in Poultry Husbandry at Cornell.

The New York College of Agriculture at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., gives its usual short course in poultry culture beginning Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1909, and closing Wednesday, Feb. 23, 1910. This course was introduced in 1905, and has steadily grown in usefulness and popularity. Tuition is free to residents of New York state. Non-residents pay a tuition fee of \$25. The average expense of the course to students has been about \$85 while at the college.

It is impossible for us in space available for this notice to give an adequate idea of how this course is developing, and of the substantial attractions it offers students of poultry culture. In connection with it there are gradually being established scholarships and prizes of considerable value. The facilities for giving instruction are also being increased. Readers interested should secure the full prospectus of the Cornell winter course for poultrymen. Address:

JAMES E. RICE,
Professor of Poultry Husbandry,
College of Agriculture,
Ithaca, N. Y.

Cornish Club.

The annual meeting and election of the American Cornish Club will be held in connection with the great International Show at Buffalo, N. Y., Thursday, Jan. 27, 1910.

New club catalogue and other important matters will be brought before the club. We earnestly request every member to attend this meeting, and bring his birds with him. H. C. HAYES, Sec'y-Treas.
Eureka, Illinois.

A Fall Short Course in Poultry.

The Maine College of Agriculture has in this issue an advertisement of a three weeks short course in poultry keeping, Oct. 25 to Nov. 15, followed by a three days poultry institute. The change of time of this course from spring to fall is made to place it when weather conditions are more favorable to outdoor practice work.

Leghorn-Spanish Cross.

Prof. Homer Jackson, in the *National Stockman*, tells of a visit to a farm in Ohio where a stock of about 1,000 White Leghorns has been kept for some years, and found too much inclined to broodiness. To overcome this the proprietors are crossing the White Leghorns with Black Spanish. The chickens produced are said to be white with a few black feathers, "and," writes Prof. Jackson, "are considered absolutely non-sitting. The hens are said to be decidedly the best layers on the farm. The plan here is to continue the cross breeding, using Leghorn blood one year and Spanish the next. Just where they will get in time with this kind of crossing is not clear, but the outcome will be interesting."

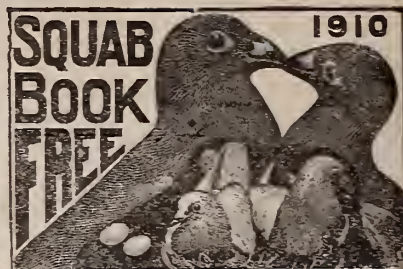
How many of the cross have been produced and how long they have been used, are points not settled. It is a reasonably safe prediction that the alternate "system" of crossing will not be followed many years. I wish I could get a little of the tendency to broodiness that is not wanted in those Leghorns into our Light Brahmas without introducing Leghorn blood, if there were only some occult way of bringing it about. I have kept Light Brahmas most of the time for the last twenty years, and have had stock from many sources, yet have never been able to get Brahmas that could be relied on to furnish sitters.

Madison Square Garden Show.

Announcement of this show will be found in our advertising columns. The dates correspond to those of the last show. We have heard nothing recently of the proposal to sell the Garden. Poultrymen hope that the shows may remain here for many years, at least until a better building is available.

It may be superfluous to dwell on the attractions of the Madison Square Garden show for the fancier, and for all interested in poultry culture, but we wish here to call attention of our readers to one feature of this show which in our opinion is of more value to most visitors than even the attractive exhibits. It is here that may be met more people interested in poultry, from a greater area of country than at any show.

If you want to know who's who, and what is going on in the poultry world from the inside, the only way is to go to places where poultrymen congregate, and get acquainted. All large shows offer opportunities for this. New York furnishes the best.



*** Mated pair kissing. Eggs to squabs in four weeks ***
Write to-day for our 1910 Free Book, handsomely printed and illustrated. How to Make Money Breeding Squabs. (Cloth-bound book now 303 pages, 114 illustrations; it's great.) Ask for special offers with express and freight prepaid. PLYMOUTH ROCK HOMERS and CARNEAUX are the standard everywhere. Read stories of customers who started small with our prolific pairs and now have big flocks. We were first, the originators. The greatest success of the twentieth century in feathers. We take subscriptions for the new splendid National Squab Magazine (monthly). Specimen copy mailed for ten cents. PLYMOUTH ROCK SQUAB CO.
310 Howard Street Melrose, Mass.

It Cures or Costs Nothing

Money back for the empty box if it fails. That's the iron-clad guarantee that goes with

Conkey's Roup Remedy

recognized everywhere for years as the one reliable remedy for this dreaded poultry disease. No poultry owner should be without it. A thimbleful in the drinking water and the fowls eagerly drink and cure themselves. Give the well fowls a little occasionally; it will tone them up and prevent disease.

Conkey's Poultry Book

New 1910 Enlarged Edition

FREE



Send for your copy at once. The enormous demand is rapidly exhausting the edition. We want to place a copy in the hands of every owner of fowls.

Facts From Men Who Know
This book does not deal in theories or opinions. It gives you facts—the result of the experience of men who have spent years in the raising, care and handling of poultry. It contains instructive articles on Housing, Feeding, Egg Production, Breeding, Care in Sickness and Health, and hundreds of other things you ought to know.

Simply send name
It's Absolutely Free of the man from whom you buy poultry supplies, with 4c in stamps to cover postage, and a copy will be sent at once. DO IT NOW, or you may be disappointed.

THE G. E. CONKEY CO.
Conkey Laboratories
Dept. 120
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HUB INCUBATOR

A thoroughly tested machine, with entirely new features.

VISIBLE BROODER

The famous brooder that is giving universal satisfaction.

SEND FOR DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE.

W. H. SOMERSALL & SON,

OFFICE 24 MT. VERNON ST., BOSTON, MASS.
FACTORY AT NATICK, MASS.

Grand Clearance Sale of

MAXFIELD HEAVY LAYING S. C. W. LEGHORNS

Must have the room; 400 grand yearling hens from this great laying strain, at \$1 each. Discount on quantities. HIGHLAND POULTRY FARM, Box F, New Hartford, Conn.

Sibley's R. C. Rhode Island Reds

At Detroit, Jan. 9-14, '09, won 23 prizes, 12 firsts, 11 others.
At Chicago, Dec. 15-19, '08, 17 prizes, 10 firsts, 7 others.
At Indianapolis, Sept. 7-11, '08, 11 prizes, 5 firsts, 6 others.

51 prizes, 27 firsts, 24 others, in three of the largest shows, tells its own story.

Send for Fall Catalogue.

IRVING A. & FRANK CHURCHILL SIBLEY,
1032 E. Jefferson St., South Bend, Ind.

\$5 BUFF WYANDOTTE COCKERELS \$5
I do not want to take into winter quarters many of my good cockerels, and will ship, this month, some April and May hatched ones for \$5 each.
Dr. N. W. SANBORN, R. F. D. 316, Holden, Mass.

POULTRY AND DAIRYMEN NOTICE

Why freeze up this winter, and melt next summer when you can avoid both in Southern California; bring your family where it is a pleasure to be alive; we need a thousand more butter, egg and poultry raisers; are supplied from East, prices fabulous; write for pamphlet about ranching, and other information.

L. W. GRAY, 527 W. Calif. St., Pasadena, Cal.

WYCKOFF'S S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS

Acknowledged Everywhere the World's Greatest Laying Strain; Unequaled in Standard Qualities. Remember that we are the originators, and for more than 30 years specialty breeders of the justly celebrated "WYCKOFF" Strain of S. C. White Leghorns, the Most Profitable Strain of Poultry in America today. Place your orders at headquarters, and make no mistake.

2000 choice yearling hens, fine strong early cockerels, and a few yearling cocks; must be sold at once to me, and prices will be made especially attractive to early buyers.
Send for catalogue, and state wants as near as possible. Address,
WYCKOFF'S FARM, Aurora, Cayuga Co., N. Y.

To say, when writing advertisers, "SAW AD. IN FARM-POULTRY," will benefit you—please them—and help us.



MOFFITT'S
Perfection Ideal Aluminum
Leg Band—12 for 12c.; 25 for
20c.; 50 for 40c.; 100 for 65c.
State variety bands are for
send two cents for sample.
For Poultry and Pigeons.
J. Moffitt, Southbridge, Mass.

\$5 NO MONEY IN ADVANCE
The "Dandy" is the
easiest operated, best
built, fastest cutting
green bone cutter
made. Sold on 15
days free trial with
a broad guarantee. If
it suits keep it, if not,
send it back. Free catalog.
Stratton Mfg. Co., Box 116, Erie, Pa.



POULTRY FENCE
STOCK STRONG—RUST PROOF
Bottom wires 1 inch apart.
Will not sag or bag. Re-
quires no boards—top or
bottom—and fewer posts.
Costs less than netting. We
pay freight. Send for catalog.
The Brown Fence & Wire Co.,
Dept. 27 Cleveland, Ohio

PRINTING
For Poultrymen a Specialty
Costs nothing to send your copy and
get an estimate. Lowest Prices. Free
use of cuts. Samples if desired.
VIKING PRESS,
299 Marginal St., EAST BOSTON, MASS.

The Only Cutter That Cuts Bone Across the Grain.
Every poultryman knows that feeding cut green bone is the only certain method of getting lots of eggs. Bone cut across the grain has far greater feeding value. The
Standard Bone Cutter
cuts green or dry bone, meat or
gristle. Runs easily. Guaranteed
best bone cutter or money re-
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Sent on 10
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sizes. Many new im-
provements. Write
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Try One FREE
STANDARD BONE CUTTER CO.,
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Free Sample of Page Fence
Let us send you an actual sample of Page
Woven Wire Fence and our valuable Quar-
ter Centennial Catalog Free. See the real
Page Wire! Examine the method of weav-
ing the wonderful Page Knot—the Knot
that can't come off! Study the many styles
of Page Fence and the Panorama of Pic-
tures showing extreme tests, which this
splendid fence withstands. Read how, in
our great mills and factories, we put elas-
ticity, tensile strength and durability
into High Carbon, Basic Open Hearth Steel
Wire. Learn what this means in economy.
Specified by U. S. Government as standard
of quality. Approved by a million farmers.
Write at once for Free Sample of Page Fence
and Grand Quarter Centennial Catalog. (4)
Page Woven Wire Fence Co.
Box 221L
Adrian, Mich.

FORCING FOOD
100 LBS
PREPARED BY
CYPHERS INCUBATOR CO.
BUFFALO, N. Y., U. S. A.

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Portable Houses	Brood Coops
Shipping Coops	Egg Cabinets
Egg Packages	Egg Testers
Egg Preservative	Leg Bands
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Send for our Free Illustrated Cat-
alogue of all Poultry Supplies.
Address nearest office.
CYPHERS INCUBATOR COMPANY,
Buffalo, N. Y., Chicago, Boston,
New York City, Kansas City,
Oakland, Cal., and London, England.
7000 Dealers in United States and Canada
Sell Our Goods. Ask at your store.

The Editor's Question Box.

Has the Egg Farm Fever. (M. F. C.)—
"I have been a reader of your valuable
paper for several years, and have gotten a
number of good pointers therefrom, but I
am now up against a proposition. I shall
be under many obligations to you if you
will help me out of my dilemma. I have
the egg farm fever. It is very fascinating
to me to read of what is being done with
great laying strains. The fancy side of the
business does not appeal to me but little.
Just now I am in bewilderment. I have
been writing all over the country to
breeders of famous laying strains for more
information pertaining to their birds. My
idea is this: If I can get a start from a
famous laying strain, what is to hinder me
from stocking up a good egg plant with a
splendid lot of layers? I have just read
an article (read it carefully twice), in
FARM-POULTRY, entitled, 'Purity of Strain
and Egg Production,' which has almost
completely knocked all of my props from
under me. The writer, Mr. A. S. Gal-
braith, asserts that many of these so-called
famous egg strains from (almost no appar-
ent cause) play out. Now what is a fellow
in my position to do?"

"(1.) Is it not true that great layers
can be produced by judicious mating
and breeding under good treatment?"

"(2.) Is it not also true that these same
great layers can be kept up to the high
standard that they have set for them-
selves?"

"(3.) Just what course would you
advise me to pursue in getting a start from
some great laying strain, in order that no
mistake be made as to breed, mating, etc.?"

"(4.) Is buying birds from a different
climate to where you are located a serious
handicap? For example: if I purchase
birds from New England, can I depend on
them to retain their good laying qualities
down here in Arkansas?"

"(5.) What are the comparative
merits of the White Leghorns, White
Wyandottes, and Barred Ply. Rocks as to
the egg farm business?"

"Accept thanks for any information
you may give me along this line."

Mr. C.'s questions cover so wide a range
that I must necessarily be brief in reply-
ing to each. As a result of such brevity
the answer to his questions can give little
more than the facts as I see them. For
the reasons I have to refer him to discus-
sions of the points involved as they have
appeared from time to time in FARM-
POULTRY. Replying to his questions in
order:—

(1.) The most that a general consid-
eration of all the evidence in regard to
this point warrants us in saying is that by
selection of vigorous, productive speci-
mens, careful regulation of the season of
hatching, and by good care, the average
production of flocks is brought to much
higher standards than the average of
flocks not so carefully managed. We do
not know whether actual capacity to pro-
duce eggs can be increased by breeding
and selection, or not.

(2.) It does not seem to be true with
regard to most great layers.

(3.) I would not know how to advise
anyone how to go ahead in a matter of
this kind and make no mistakes. What
I do myself when I want to build up
good laying is to try to get and develop
stock that can be kept in good laying
condition easily, that constitutionally
tends to keep in good producing condi-
tion. In building up such a stock I ex-
pect to make mistakes, and often have
plans go wrong.

(4.) You never can tell what results
will follow changes from one climate to
another; but you can usually count on a
part of the birds being at least as good in
the new locality as in the old.

(5.) For eggs as a specialty in a
warm or a moderate climate, the White
Leghorn would usually be more satisfac-
tory. When the winters are more se-
vere the Rocks would probably give best
all round results. The two varieties of
Rocks in egg production are alike.

Growing Grain for Poultry. (A. S. C.)—
"How many acres under cultivation
would it take to supply a flock of three
hundred laying hens the year round? This
is for grain and roots, cabbage, etc., for
hens only; no young chicks will be raised,

but fresh pullets will be bought as the
stock runs out or dies off."

That is a hard question to answer.
Production varies with the land, the sea-
son, the crop, and the variety grown.
The old estimate of a bushel of grain per
hen is probably a little too low when all
food is purchased, but if we take a bushel
as the basis for estimates, we would need
300 bushels of grain for 300 hens. Of a
crop of corn giving 30 bushels to the acre,
it would take ten acres to supply this
amount. Of wheat at 12 to 15 bushels to
the acre, it would take 20 to 25 acres.
With higher yields less acreage would be
required. If you can grow 60 to 100
bushels of corn to the acre, from three to
five acres of corn would supply the quan-
tity mentioned. With ordinary yields it
takes quite an acreage of grain to main-
tain a few hundred hens. When we be-
gin to figure problems of this kind we get
a better appreciation of the amount of
food which would otherwise be wasted if
gathered by a farm flock of hens picking
the greater part of their living. For
green food for 300 hens, not a very large
tract would be required. For a guess I
should say that on good, well fertilized
land you could produce on a quarter of an
acre all the green food a flock of 300 could
eat. It might be done on less. Some
readers may be able to give a more definite
statement.

Getting a Job on a Poultry Farm.
(H. G. C.)—"I am a young educated
American, seeking a chance to learn the
poultry business by working for a concern
doing such a business—mainly for egg
production, or for both that and meat.
My plan would be to work for the concern
for perhaps two or three years, or until I
felt thoroughly familiar with the business.
While working there, after this winter,
maybe, I should try to get ten acres of
land or so, and plant dwarf apple trees for
intensive culture, as a specialist would,
(this being my chosen line), and I should
want to work hens into the scheme, and
give them free range of the orchard. I
believe this would be profitable, would it
not? I should like to find out from you
whether you think I could strike a job at
this time of the year. I desire to be em-
ployed thus this winter, so as to be just so
much in as far as experience goes; but if
you think this time of year unfavorable,
I should be very much obliged to know it as
soon as possible, so I can find employment
in a factory till spring."

Orcharding and poultry keeping can be
profitably combined. In buying land for
such purpose, it is wise to buy in larger
quantities than Mr. C. has in mind, be-
cause then one has a chance to expand.
If a man buys ten acres and develops it,
he may not be able afterwards to buy ad-
joining land, even if on the market, ex-
cept at a price that would have made it
cost him less to buy more land in the first
place, and pay interest on the money. I
don't know that the time of year has
much to do with ease or difficulty of get-
ting a place on a poultry farm. The best
way to do is to get in communication
with proprietors of several farms where
vacancies may occur at any time, and
wait for an opening.

Crippled Chicks. (L. S. C.)—"I have
a nice lot of spring chickens, April and
May hatched, and they seemed to be doing
well until recently, when some of them
seem to act like a person with stiff joints.
They eat well, and seem to feel all right,
only that in walking they do not seem to
have free use of their legs, and get about
like a person with stiff knees or badly
crippled with rheumatism, and often will
sit down as if tired. Am at a loss to
understand the cause, and do not know
what to do for them."

The trouble is probably rheumatic. It
may be due to damp quarters, or to the
chicks overcrowding, sweating, and then
becoming chilled. I could "guess" better
if I knew more of the conditions under
which the chicks are kept, and of their
history, and if I knew also with certainty
that they were really good thrifty chickens
until this trouble came. People's ideas of
a nice lot of chickens doing well differ.
These may have been exceptionally nice,
or they may not; I don't know. I do



Think of the terrible wear and tear
a roof gets! Think of the weather ex-
tremes of winter—freezing, thawing—
rain, sleet, snow, ice and slush—storms
and winds, the beating downpours
and burning sun of summer.
No other part of the building is sub-
jected to tests half so severe.
Yet, through it all, PAROID Roof-
ing will last longer, without repairs,
than any other kind of roofing.

PAROID ROOFING

Among many examples, we point
to the U. S. Government Buildings at
Havana, Cuba.
These were roofed with PAROID
(chosen after exhaustive tests) in 1898—
over 11 years ago. Neighboring roofs
of other kinds have been frequently
patched and relaid. But the Paroid
roofs are to-day intact, and good for
many years more. In spite of the fierce
onslaught of that climate, these Paroid
roofs have never leaked—never cost a
cent for repairs.

Other Government Buildings
Since testing PAROID in Cuba, the
Government has used it on hundreds
of other permanent buildings in all
parts of the world—for it has proved a
permanent roofing, in all climates.
In one year, 25 carloads of Paroid for
Government use were shipped to the
Philippines. The permanent Govern-
ment buildings at Panama are roofed
with Paroid.

The Secret of Paroid
The felt used in PAROID is so
downright good, that, unprotected, it
would last as long as many roofings.

Then the life, strength and tough-
ness of this felt is multiplied many
times by the secret preservative com-
pound with which it is thoroughly
saturated,—every pore filled,—sealed
absolutely water-tight and air-tight.
And both sides are coated with a
thick, elastic compound which wears
almost like slate.

This protecting coating is impene-
trable—shuts out the air, moisture,
and all the destroying forces of Nature.
It is the air which so soon eats the life
out of shingles, tar, and other roof-
ings—dries them out—causes quick
decay, cracks and leaks.

This PAROID coating is heat-proof
and cold-proof—neither melts, blisters
nor cracks. It won't catch fire from
the flying sparks and brands which so
often set fire to other roofings.

OUR GUARANTEE is that we
will replace every square foot of roofing
that proves to be of defective manu-
facture. If a stronger guarantee than
this could be made we would make it.
Dealers everywhere sell PAROID.

FREE BOOKS
For the Man About to Build
"Practical Farm Buildings" shows
how PAROID ROOFING saves roof
money and worry. It is full of plans
for farm and poultry buildings.
Write to-day and tell us the kind of
building and we will send you the
right book and samples.
F. W. BIRD & SON,
Waterproofing Specialists,
Established 1817.
208 Mill St., East Walpole, Mass.

SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

HEN-E-TA BONE-GRITS

NO OTHER BONE NEEDED | NO OTHER GRIT NEEDED
NO MORE BONE CUTTERS NEEDED

100 LB. BAG \$2.25 | 50 LB. BAG \$1.50
30% PURE BONE ASH

VALUABLE BOOKLET RELIABLE JOBBERS WANTED

HEN-E-TA BONE CO.
NEWARK, N. J., DEPT. B | FLEMINGTON, W. VA.



know that these terms are often applied to chicks they don't fit, simply because the person using them has no opportunity to compare the chicks with better ones.

The Editor as a Real Estate Agent.—I have a letter from an old time subscriber to, and advertiser in this paper, who wants to sell his farm in Vermont, and thinks I might help him. He offers me expenses to go up and see the farm, \$10 to advertise it, and \$100 if I get him a customer. His reason for selling is that he is getting on in years (past seventy), and cannot handle the place much longer.

I frequently get requests of this kind. I have always declined to do anything in such cases, for several reasons. In the first place, I think it poor policy for an editor of a poultry paper to become either a real estate or an employment agent. Leaving out of the question considerations as to the propriety of the matter, which are not really very serious, if I undertake to help a man sell his farm, or get a job, or hunt up a man to work on his poultry farm, and give the matter any attention, it takes time that I can use to better advantage, even if I do not give it time required by regular duties; and I've noticed that some people who engage in incidental operations of this kind find it hard to avoid conflicts. Theoretically it is a very simple thing to keep a matter of this kind in mind, and if occasion offers do a little business. Actually it is difficult,—if you have anything else on your mind. Some people may be able to handle a variety of side issues, but they are more likely to lose more on their main line than they make on the others, unless the two fit in very nicely. There is also this to consider, that you can sometimes go to a great deal of trouble for no results. That is an inevitable accessory of all kinds of business or work. I do a good many things personally in my work on the paper, expecting to find them profitable to the paper, that yield no returns. In matters that come more appropriately in the line of a poultry journalist, such as lecturing and work in connection with organizations or meetings of various kinds, you can sometimes do a great deal with no returns to you or to anyone. I've always felt that in these directions I got all the uncertainties I wanted without becoming real estate or employment agent, or going into the business of laying out poultry plants, visiting poultrymen in trouble at so much per visit, etc., etc.

Something About Rye.

A recent issue of the *American Cultivator* contains an interesting article by J. W. Ingham, on "The Useful Rye Crop." He treats the subject as it relates to the use of rye products for human food and for feeding horses; but what he has to say along this line suggests that rye meal might be used to advantage with other ground feeds in feeding poultry. The property of rye meal which is sometimes its chief fault, is its stickiness when moistened. In feeding horses this is taken advantage of by mixing the rye meal with fine cut straw or hay, the straw or hay being moistened after cutting, and the grain then mixed with it adheres to it, and is eaten with much relish by stock. This same stickiness of rye meal would be an advantage in securing the desired consistency in a wet mash mixed cold. In making such a mash we find that corn meal, merely wet, and bran do not hold together, but if we add a little fine middlings or cheap flour we get the consistency we want. Apparently rye meal should answer the same purpose.

The ergot poisoning, often cited as an obstacle to the use of rye for food, is said to be due not to the rye, but to *false rye* or *ergot*, which should be, and can easily be, separated from the rye before grinding—the ergot grains being much larger than the rye.

La Fleche Breeders.

La Fleche breeders are requested to send their names to me; also what specials they can offer at shows; also number of birds they have for sale.

ELBERT WAKEMAN,
Sec'y La Fleche Breeders Ass'n.
Millneck, Long Island, N. Y.

Thinks That Advertising Problem Does Not Exist.

Editor FARM-POULTRY:—I read with some interest the problem brought up by Mr. Owen in your September number, together with his proposed solution, and your comments on the same. I was discussing the subject with my brother, when he very simply solved the "problem" by showing that it did not exist. It is quite true that among the readers of a certain poultry paper Barred Rocks may be of interest to twice as many people as are R. I. Reds, but you will also find that there are twice as many advertisers of the Rocks, and that the number of buyers per advertiser is about the same in each case. Of course it does not work out with mathematical exactness in any case, but it comes nearly enough to giving a square deal for practical purposes.

NEIL MORRIS.
Groton, N. Y.

More About Advertising.

Editor FARM-POULTRY:—I saw some very interesting letters in your September number from Mr. William Barry Owen, and Mr. H. R. Ingalls, on advertising problems.

I am unable to agree with them in many ways. Take for instance Mr. Owen's illustration of the percentage one has over the other that has a less popular breed. He does not figure that the man with the Barred Rocks has his percentage cut by the number of advertisers of that breed, while the man with the Houdans has only a few to compete with.

Mr. Ingalls says the big advertisers have all the show. Well then, why not be a big advertiser, or keep quiet? I believe in a man getting what he pays for, and paying for what he gets. If I thought an ad. in your paper would not pay, I would keep it out, and say nothing.

God, who is fair and just, cannot please everybody. How can a poultry paper do it—with all its readers cranks?

ANDREW C. DEHASS.

Paradise, La.

The Buff Rock Club.

The American Buff Plymouth Rock Club offers as special prizes to every poultry show in the United States and Canada that will publish in their premium list and send copy of same to the undersigned, the following notice:

The American Buff Plymouth Rock Club offers as special prizes four handsome silk ribbons; one for best shaped male; one for best shaped female; one for best surface colored male; one for best surface colored female.

Only members whose dues are paid to July 1, 1910, are eligible to compete for these specials. Membership fee is only \$1, and this pays up to July 1, 1910. For information in regard to the club write William A. Stolts, sec'y, R. R. No. 19, Indianapolis, Ind.

How Does Burhans Know?

Friend Amos Burhans is real mad about my remarks anent crosses of cockerel and pullet lines of Barred Rocks, and declares that he cannot "find that Robinson has given us a grain of evidence other than hearsay."

Well, Robinson didn't pretend to be giving anything but hearsay evidence on that point. Still, knowing the men from whom the hearsay evidence was obtained, I'd attach more importance to what my ears heard them say than to the opinions of Amos Burhans.

Burhans also declares "Robinson never bred a Rock in his life." I will neither admit or deny (at present) that he is right, but ask Burhans to tell us how he knows. Did he look the matter up, or is his statement made on hearsay, or does he just know by intuition?

Burhans has published a proposition, and I demand proof of it. After he has furnished his proofs it will be quite plain to the world that Amos' "comments" are not always to be taken literally.



"John, you're just the man I want to talk to. You know I'm going to build a new poultry house. And I don't want to make any mistake about the roof. I had too much trouble with the old roof. Always needing repairs. I guess there wasn't a year that I didn't spend a lot of money trying to patch up those everlasting leaks. This time I want a roof that won't leak like a sieve, and that'll last awhile."

"Well, you can take it from me, Tom, Rex Flintkote is in every way the best roofing you or anybody else can get. After fifteen years my roof doesn't show a single sign any place of being any the worse for wear. Never cost me a solitary cent for repairs."

"Well, you've put it pretty strong, John. Now, what I want to know is *why* Rex Flintkote Roofing is best. You know there are two or three other roofings that are claimed to be the Best-in-the-World."

"Listen. You see Rex is made of long-fibre wool-felt. Now, wool-felt is something that lasts like eternity. Look how a good 'slouch' felt-hat wears—forever, almost. Then this hard-packed wool-felt is thoroughly saturated and impregnated with a special compound that protects against decay. Rain can't soak through that combination—the sun can't soften it—and it's proof against the action of the oxygen in the air, and all those things that so eat the life right out of other prepared roofings."

"That's good, John; now how about fire."

"Send for a free sample. Try it with a live coal of fire—prove for yourself that Rex Flintkote won't catch fire. Just write to the manufacturers. They'll also tell you just what dealer to go to. And they'll send you free a mighty good book about roofing. Remember, look for the Boy trademark on every roll. Better write to-night, Tom, before you forget it. Here's the address:



J. A. & W. BIRD & CO., 53 India Street, Boston, Mass.

PROVIDENCE SHOW!

Twenty-fourth Annual Exhibition
Rhode Island Poultry Association

Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 2, 3, 4, 1909

Infantry Hall, Providence, R. I.

ENTRIES CLOSE NOV. 13, 1909.

OVER \$300 IN CASH SPECIALS

Liberal regular Premiums on Single Entries and Pens. Address for Premium Lists

W. I. BROWN, Sec'y, 6 Exchange Place, Providence, R. I.

BLANCHARD'S WHITE LECHORNS

Are no experiment, having been carefully selected and bred for over twenty years, with results that justify the claim that this is one of the greatest laying strains of Single Comb White Lechorns in existence. No labor or expense has been spared in building up and perfecting this strain, and while the production of large pure white faucy market eggs has been the main object, standard qualities have not been neglected. They are large, vigorous, active, and handsome. Good winter layers, and keep at it all summer. Unexcelled as foundation stock or for introducing new blood.

WINNERS AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, NEW YORK, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907.

Stock for sale, both old and young. Illustrated circular free

A. M. SHAW, successor to H. J. BLANCHARD, R. F. D., 14, Groton, N. Y.

Grand Breeding Stock



FOR SALE of several varieties. MY BIRDS HAVE WON

many blue ribbons in the past five years. I offer a few choice birds at special sale prices, as you will note in this advertisement. This Buff Wyandotte Cock, 1 yr. old, is a beauty, offered for only \$5. My first prize Breeding Pen of Barred Rocks, winners at Waterville this season, 1909; price, \$15, one Cock and four Hens, the best bargain to be had; 3000 birds on exhibition at this show. Also choice breeding hens, in S. C. Buff Orpingtons, my Regal strain. Best in the World. Price of hens upon application; write now and get first pick.

Address,

E. W. STEVENS,
Augusta, Me.

An Appreciative Secretary.

EDITOR FARM-POULTRY:—I have read your article in August number, "Echoes of the American Breeders' Meeting," and wish to say that I am like an old fellow I knew down south, in one respect. If he attended a camp meeting, political speech making, or anything of like nature, he would always sit and nod his head, muttering, "Them's my sentiments."

I have taken the inclosed clipping from the Lewiston (Idaho) *Morning Tribune* of 5th inst., and hope that it will interest you. It was the finding of this article in conjunction with reading your article that caused me to write to you and send the clipping. I think you hit the spot several times in the August issue of F.-P., particularly in answering the question on fertility.

The gentleman from Greencastle, Ind., is thinking along proper lines, and knows what he is talking about regarding house cats.

I notice in the current issue of the R. P. J., Dr. Woods has considerable to say regarding your fresh air poultry house article which appeared in a recent issue of F.-P. It is only natural that the Dr. should do so; but stay with him. As the baseball fans say, "we are pulling for you."

I wish to thank you for the pleasure of having received F.-P. for the past year gratis, and will say that when a poultry

publication is considerate enough to send their paper to the secretary of the local poultry association gratis, they are doing a little missionary work which I think they are not aware of. For example, a secretary had trouble and worry keeping his association going and promoting the shows, and then to receive a statement from some poultry publication that his subscription has expired, "please remit," when, perhaps he has just spent a half hour typing the names of his association members to send to the same publication in response to a request from their subscription department. It is indeed a pleasure to receive a subscription gratis, and is one of the few gratifications which a secretary of a local association knows.

W. E. CLARK,
Secy-Trea. Asotin County Poultry Association, Clarkston, Wash.

The clipping Mr. Clark sends is a press despatch from Los Angeles, telling how the Pasadena Gardeners' Association passed a resolution condemning Luther Burbank's methods of exploiting his productions, which are referred to as "false creations." In "poultry circles" consideration of Burbank, his works and ways, is serviceable principally to show that the poultry business is not worse than all others. We have not a few people in it who are constantly declaiming of the excess of wickedness among poultrymen.

Missouri State Show at St. Louis.

The Missouri State Poultry Show has been located in St. Louis, Dec. 6-11th. The business men of St. Louis have rented America's greatest coliseum for that week at a cost of \$3,000. It is a new convention hall, and is the largest, best lighted, most modern and convenient show room in any city in this country today. The show will be cooped with Spratt's Patent exhibition coops, will all be on the ground floor; and no other show in America will surpass the Missouri State this year in any particular. The State Poultry Board is back of it with a \$10,000 appropriation by the state; and the fanciers and business men of St. Louis are enthusiastically pushing the show, and the metropolitan press of that city agrees to boost the show before and after, and make the winnings of every exhibitor worth something to him.

The premiums will be as large as those paid at any show in America. On pens, 1st \$10; 2d \$5; 3d \$2.50. On singles, 1st \$5; 2d \$3; 3d \$1.50. This season most shows of equal magnitude and importance will pay about half this amount in premiums, and charge from \$2 to \$5 entry fee; but no one ever before heard of such a show being held in such a beautiful show room, in such a large city, with tens of thousands of people to see their birds, with so many specials offered, and only an entrance fee of 50c. charged. Fifty silver cups will be offered, and the business men of St. Louis will offer hundreds of dollars worth of valuable special prizes, and \$100 in cash offered for the largest and best displays. You can not afford to miss this show if you expect to exhibit anywhere this season.

The judges will be W. S. Russell, Chas. H. Rhodes, D. T. Heimlich, and Adam Thompson, four of our best and most popular judges. Others will be added. There will be six days of genuine schooling in poultry culture, six nights of pleasure and profit. You can't afford to miss the great St. Louis show under the auspices of the Missouri State Poultry Association. One fifth prize here will mean more to you and your flock than a half dozen firsts at smaller shows. If you are in the market for show birds for later winter shows, you can come here and get birds that will win in the best shows of America; if you have them for sale, buyers will be here in great numbers looking for them. Keep your eye on Missouri and St. Louis.

Write the secretary for premium list, which will be sent you as soon as issued. Make this show if you don't make another this season. Money will be paid as soon as ribbons are tied. Premiums were paid in full in one hour after the judges begun work last year.

T. E. QUISENBERRY, Sec'y.
Columbia, Missouri.

On To Chicago.

Final arrangements have been made for the great Chicago show to be held under the auspices of the great Mid-West Poultry and Pet Stock Association. The Coliseum building has been leased, including the annex, and every department of this great show will be under an expert superintendent whose duty will be to look after every detail that goes to make a strictly down to date exhibition.

The well known Empire coops will be used for all classes of poultry and water fowls. The pigeons will be caged in the coops that have been used in Chicago for the past two years, that have been voted by pigeon men as the best ever set up in America.

The premiums, both regular and special, are liberal, and every dollar is guaranteed in full and in cash. This guaranty is backed by every member of the association, and the money is now in the bank to pay them.

Many of the leading specialty clubs will be represented in our list, where the cash and special prizes will run from \$100 to \$200 on a single variety. Quite a few of the big specialty clubs will hold their annual meetings in Chicago, and the poultry judges selected are George Burgott, Chas. Cornman, A. F. Kummer, W. C. Pierce, H. H. Coburn, O. L. McCord, Chas. V. Keeler, H. A. Pickett, and C. A. Norton. The pigeon judges are Geo. Ewald, F. C. Borchardt, Jas. Skiles, Howard Young, and L. A. Jansen; others may be added later.

At a meeting of the stockholders held at Niagara Falls, August 9th, the following officers were elected: President, E. E. Richards, Cedar Rapids, Ia.; 1st vice-president, Irving A. Sibley, South Bend, Ind.; 2d vice-president, Ernest Kellerstrass, Kansas City, Mo.; 3d vice-president, Geo. H. Rudy, Mattoon, Ill.; sec'y-treas., Theo. Hewes, Indianapolis, Ind.; executive board, C. S. Byers, Hazelrigg, Ind.; J. C. Dinsmore, Kramer, Ind.; C. C. Coulter, Frankfort, Ind.; Frank Hare, Quincy, Ill.; A. E. Martz, Arcadia, Ind. Poultry superintendent, Henry Dippel, Indianapolis, Ind.; press man and superintendent of southern exhibits, John A. Murkin, Nashville, Tenn.

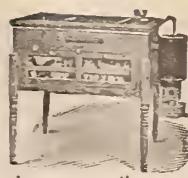
The premium list will be ready for distribution October 25th. Entries in all departments positively close November 25th at 10 A. M. If you have not already sent in your name for premium lists, do so at once by addressing the secretary, THEO. HEWES, Indianapolis, Ind.

Mason, Mich.

The next annual exhibition of the Mason Poultry Association will be held Dec. 7-11, 1909. W. N. Wise, judge.
J. A. BROWER, Sec'y.

The Incubator YOU Want is the One that Hatches the Most "Livable" Chicks

It makes no difference to you on what principles a machine hatches—BUT it does make a difference how many "livable" chicks you get from each hatch. It is very discouraging to find at the end of the 21 days that from 1/2 to 3/4 of the chicks are "dead-in-the-shell" and a few days later to have "white diarrhoea" carry off 1/2 the remainder. The trouble is improper hatching. What you and every other buyer of an incubator want is a machine that hatches chicks that live. When we tell you we have that incubator we don't base our claim on theory or guesswork, but instead on actual, practical results already obtained by those who are operating our machines. For instance read Mr. Leon L. Hough's letter. We have hundreds just as strong.



Prairie State Incubators and Brooders



work on a different principle than any others. They copy nature almost to perfection. That's why they not only hatch more chicks and raise them, but why they hatch bigger, stronger chicks—chicks that live and incidentally they are the kind that bring you profit. You will be interested to learn how they do this so successfully. Our 1909 Catalog tells the whole story. It's free.

12,000 Big Strong Chicks
Were hatched by me in Prairie State Incubators during Apr., May and June this year. The batches averaged better than 99 per cent and went as high as 98 percent. These chicks were shipped as far as 2,000 miles with only 7 reported dead in the whole 12,000. How is that for vigor? Leon L. Hough, Canisteo, N. Y.

PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR CO.,
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My strain is bred for business. They are money makers. Place your orders early. Send for illustrated circular telling all about my Fresh Air houses. Pans of small colony house No. 1, or large practical house No. 2, 50c. each. My Feeding Formula brings success wherever used, price 50c.

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Denies There Was a "Holdup."

WE regret exceedingly that Mr. John H. Robinson could not have been present as member of the revision committee that met at Chicago and at Niagara Falls. Had he been there in an official capacity he would have satisfied himself that the revision of the Standard was not a mere attempt to change the wording in order to copyright a new edition. The hundreds of letters from breeders suggesting changes in nearly all varieties, received careful attention from all members of the committee while in session. Hundreds of letters were written and answered by individual members of that committee during the past year, all relating to changes in the text and illustrations of the new Standard. The meetings of the revision committee at Niagara Falls were open to all who cared to attend same on Standard business. The Columbian Wyandotte, the White Wyandotte, the Partridge Wyandotte, the American and other clubs were represented by committees at these sessions, and succeeded in getting their recommendations accepted as a rule. — J. H. DREVENSTEDT, in *American Stock-Keeper*.

There is not to exceed one chance in a million that attending revision committee meetings in an official capacity would change my mind as to the occasion for revising the Standard. It really isn't a question of opinion at all. It is a question of fact that sticks out all through discussions of revision of the Standard.

Meetings of the revision committee at Niagara Falls may have been open to anyone who cared to attend them "on Standard business." What is "Standard business?" In company with a few others, after having been invited to attend (as a member of the association, representative of the press, person interested in Standards, etc., etc.), a session of the revision committee at Niagara Falls, and after assurance that visitors were welcome, I went to the room where the meeting was held. As soon as the meeting was called to order a member of it (Theodore Hewes), objected to the presence of persons not members of the committee except as such had "business" with the committee. He probably did not voice the sentiment of any considerable part of the committee, but under the circumstances the visitors promptly withdrew. That, however, has nothing to do with the point as to the genuineness of the revision.

Nor does the fact that a general revision having been ordained after a general invitation to everybody who was not suited with anything in the Standard to send his views to the committee a great deal of correspondence ensued, prove that there was either a demand for revision or that the recommendations of the committee, or the action of the association resulted in a real revision. The most noticeable thing about the proceedings of the association as it acted upon the Standard was the unwillingness of the majority to make changes. That has been characteristic of the attitude of breeders generally toward Standard revision as far back as I can remember.

In the nature of things it is impossible to make material changes in a book of the character of the Standard every five years. Indeed the severest reflection that could be made on the quality of the book is the admission it needs revision so short a time after publication. The idea of establishing requirements (ideal at that) as "Standards" and then soon altering, or considering whether or not they ought to be altered, is as absurd as can be conceived.

I hope to see the day, and that before long, when the American Poultry Association will have revenues from other sources sufficient to remove temptation to "Standard" tinkering. When that time comes it will be possible to put the standards up as they should be, and leave them that way until there is a demand for a change. A requirement once established as standard ought to be regarded as fixed until an overwhelming demand of breeders actually interested in it demands a change.

Mr. Drevensstedt remarks that the clubs represented by committees at these sessions as a rule succeeded in getting their recommendations adopted; but in referring to these clubs by name he avoids mention of the R. I. Red clubs.

For why? — because one R. I. Red club (not the largest), taking time by the forelock, went to the committee at Chicago and succeeded in getting its recommendations accepted by the committee. Then at Niagara Falls the other and larger club, opposed to these recommendations, got after the committee and—well, you know the rest.

Agriculture of Maine.

We are indebted to Hon. A. W. Gilman, commissioner of agriculture of the state of Maine, for a copy of his annual report for the year 1908. The report is devoted principally to dairy and fruit matters, with hardly a mention of poultry in it, though in several respects the state is taking an advanced position in the development of poultry interests. We have no objection to enter on the report for what it contains. On the subjects treated it presents a variety of valuable matter. But it seems to us poultry might have been given attention without detriment to other interests, and especially that full utilization of land devoted to dairy, or fruit, or both, so requires a combination with poultry that the subject ought to have come up in connection with these subjects.

More Daughters of 230-Egg Hens.

Mr. W. A. Kock, of Denmark, in a contribution to the *Illustrated Poultry Record*, gives records of some 200-egg Danish Brown Leghorns and their daughters. The original stock birds under observation were four hens which in their first year of laying laid respectively 221, 215, 214, and 214 eggs. For three of these hens records are given for five years laying; for the fourth for four years. Records are given for sixty of the daughters of these hens. Out of this total only four reached in their pullet year a record of 200 eggs or over, and some reached the lowest first year record of the original four. The average for the first year of the four dams was 216 eggs. The average for 58 daughters, (two of the sixty having died without making any record), was 158 eggs, a rather striking illustration of the tendency to reach the general level of breed performance.



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Poultry Plant Improvement at Minnesota Experiment Station.

For a great number of years the poultry interests at the state experiment station at University Farm have been conducted under great difficulties as far as up to date equipment is concerned. An appropriation by the state legislature makes possible many needed changes for the future.

A larger plot of ground has been set aside for poultry work, and a larger building for housing the poultry is in process of construction. Besides this

main poultry building there will be constructed this year two model farm poultry buildings and a number of colony houses. Next year further improvements will be made that will put this poultry plant on an equality with the plants established by other experiment stations. The poultry industry, as a farmers' proposition, will have the consideration which its importance deserves. Some of the later methods of incubation, feeding, and breeding poultry will be tried out, and the results will be published. The different methods of housing poultry in cold climates will also be studied, and the results of the trials made public.

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Mr. Poultryman:—Uncle Sam says the annual egg crop is worth \$400,000,000! And that the value of Poultry and Eggs produced last year exceeds \$700,000,000!! Did you get your full share of this money? If not, why not?

Milo M. Hastings, until recently the Commercial Poultry Expert for the United States Government has written a Poultry Book: "The Dollar Hen." This book is a complete, thorough and concise work of 227 pages, containing over 106,000 words, also several charts, maps, etc. The purpose of this book is to tell the reader:—

HOW TO MAKE MONEY RAISING POULTRY

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"The Dollar Hen" is not a "hoon" poultry book. It tells as much about what not to do as what to do. It thoroughly discusses every phase of the poultry business, and tells how money can be made or may be lost. It gives a full account of all methods and systems of poultry raising as taught by private individuals. Mr. Hastings does not advocate complicated and expensive methods: In fact, he found such to be universal money losers.

As a Government Expert

As a Government Expert Mr. Hastings investigated all the various private systems, profit feeds, and so-called poultry secrets. He visited the great, successful poultry farming districts of Peterluma, Littleton, Watertown, the South Shore and other regions—some wholly unknown to the poultry press,—and gathered from all these sources the best ideas and most profitable practices.

From his long, practical experience on farm, poultry plant, with State Experiment Station, and Federal service, and with his unprecedented opportunity to get at the actual facts of the poultry industry, Mr. Hastings has laid out a typical money making poultry plan, called

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and has described the various necessary adaptations for different localities and conditions.

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The Hen's Ancestors,
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Buying Eggs by Weight,
How Eggs are Marketed,

The Wisdom of the Egyptian,
Principles of Incubation,
Moisture and Evaporation,
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and over 100 other subjects.

The Dollar Hen brings out some ideas that are novel and valuable to all poultrymen: American Poultry Advocate, or "Methods," but a book worth several dollars of any poultryman's money. THE DOLLAR HEN has a vast fund of valuable information that required much time, expense, and effort. And think of it! You can have this authoritative and complete guide to profitable poultry, postpaid, for only \$1.00. And if you'll order now, mentioning this publication, we will include the POULTRY DIGEST for one year. Remember, we guarantee THE DOLLAR HEN to give entire satisfaction. Order to-day.



There are no exaggerated get-rich-quick schemes discussed. It is plain common-sense from cover to cover and is well worth business. Inland Poultry Journal.

It is the best book for the beginner that has lately appeared because it deals in straight facts without theorizing. What it says has been worked out in the poultry yard. Miller Purvis, Editor of Poultry.

Why spend several dollars per hen for housing when Mr. Hastings teaches you the construction of a system of housing that has been eminently successful and costs only thirty cents per hen?

Why pay high prices for theoretically "balanced rations" when a practical food chemist who has personally investigated the work of a score of experiment stations has found the most profitable poultry rations to be as simple as the corn and alfalfa diet of a Kansas steer?

Why invest money in patent "systems," patent feeds, plans, remedies, etc., of little or no value, or capable of only local application, when a Government Expert who has investigated the industry throughout the United States and Canada has proven the worth or worthlessness of these things and tells you how to apply this knowledge to your particular circumstances and climate?

Why waste money and time experimenting with poultry when for a very small sum you can buy a guide to profitable poultry production? Why not make money at someone else's expense? The Dollar Hen tells you how in plain, simple language, and proves every statement made. Remember, you are getting facts and figures that cost the U.S. Government thousands of dollars to secure.

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Cats and Birds.

THE article by C. K. Fisher, on "The Economic Value of Predaceous Birds and Mammals," in the "Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture," reminds me forcibly of a remark in an editorial in the *Experiment Station Record*, on the need of editing the literary productions of scientists. It also emphasizes an oft noted fact that there is nothing so useful in assisting people to see facts in their true relations as having to pay for the errors one makes along this line. There is the weak point in all investigational and experimental work conducted at the expense of another, and especially in work done at public expense.

Reading the article referred to, one might infer that Mr. Fisher held a brief for all creatures commonly regarded as intolerable about the homestead or farmstead, and that people generally were making the incredible mistake of protecting, harboring, and cherishing some of the most destructive creatures, while waging a war of relentless extermination on some of the most beneficial. One might easily suppose this, not because that is actually the view taken or presented by Mr. Fisher, but because he does not fairly discriminate between useful and detrimental qualities either in the creatures for which he pleads, or in those which he condemns. He seems to minimize the faults of the outlawed creatures, and magnify those of the favored, not with intent to deceive, but merely to emphasize the fact that the first have their uses, and the latter are not free from fault. This could have been done much more effectively by a more judicial presentment of the case for and against each class.

What he says of such creatures as foxes, hawks, skunks, etc., differs so little from some observations of his recently criticised by a contributor that nothing more need be said on that score. His special antipathy seems to be cats, in discussing which he makes the mistake of intimating that a really useful cat is about as rare as a destructive fox, skunk, or hawk, (that is if we accept his view as to the general character of these creatures).

"Many an innocent, hawk, skunk, owl, and weasel, has been shot for the deeds of that sleek highwayman,—the house cat. It is safe to say that this marauder, which enjoys all the comforts and protection of a home, destroys in the aggregate more wild birds and young poultry than all the native natural enemies combined. A cat has been known to kill a whole brood of chickens in a day, a feat unequalled by any predaceous animal, with the possible exception of the mink. * * * * The principal reasons given for keeping cats are * * * and their alleged value as rat and mouse killers. It is impossible at present to obtain correct figures on the subject, but it is safe to say that few persons during a normal lifetime run across more than half a dozen cats that habitually attack rats. Occasionally a hunter cat is found which seems to delight in catching rats, gophers, or ground squirrels. It has been the common experience of the writer to find premises that were well supplied with cats overrun with rats and mice. At a certain ranch house in the west he trapped in his bedroom twelve mice in a week, although eight cats had access to the place."

On questions like this, "the common sense of most" is a better guide than the advice of a "scientist too much impressed with the utility values of wild animals, and too little appreciative of the usefulness of tame ones. It would be a most singular thing if all mankind in all the ages," as our friend Gorline would say, had been so deceived about the propensity of cats to catch rats and mice. Such deception is not merely incredible; it is incomprehensible.

The mousing and ridding, and further hunting proclivities of cats are, like qualities of domestic creatures in general, very much a matter of selection. In the propagation of cats, however, breeding selection is rather more uncertain than with other domestic animals, for—as a friend of mine who is something of a specialist in the cat line, once remarked, "Of the pedigree of a cat—the less said the better. We can guess, but we don't know."

Allowing for this idiosyncrasy in cat production, the question of getting cats

really useful for the purposes for which they are kept is a question of selection, with pedigree known on the female side. There are cats—lots of them—that are good mousers. There are cats, not so many as of the mousing kind, but still enough, that are good ratters. There is occasionally a cat that not only hunts larger game, but will guard its home premises like a dog.

A cat that will do all these things can be taught, or trained, to let chickens alone. This trait, too, is in the blood and breeding as well as in training. Some cats show from the time they begin to hunt too strong a propensity for chickens to be allowed to live.

I can hardly accept the view of Mr. Fisher as to the scarcity of cats that catch rats. If he had said *eat rats*, I think I could agree with him, for as far as my acquaintance with them goes, very few cats that are well fed eat rats, even when they kill them. Where mice are very abundant the same is true. Some cats will hunt and kill a great deal more than they can use. That is a good quality in a mouser, but not in a cat that catches chickens. But cats, as I know them, whether addicted to mice or to chickens, are likely to kill only as they eat. I once—and only once—saw a cat catch two small chickens and carry off at the same time. Usually a cat catches a chicken, goes away and eats it, and unless the chicken is very small, does not come back for several hours.

So far from sharing the Genesee Farm man's antipathy to cats, I would not be without them. I'd much rather take the trouble necessary to get, train, and keep good cats about the premises, than fight mice and rats by other means. The cat is accused of destroying birds. One thing I like about a cat is a habit of destroying birds—certain kinds of birds, as, for instance, the English sparrow. I'd much rather protect chickens from my neighbors' cats when small, and have the cats hunt sparrows about my poultry houses than put up with the "pesky" sparrows. We have had cats that would catch sparrows feeding with young chickens, and after a few days when the chickens learned they were in no danger, I've seen chickens knocked right and left by the cat springing upon a sparrow, pay no more attention than when knocked about by the old hen scratching. When going about the Little Compton district with a friend some years ago, in looking over one farm we came on a corner of the kitchen garden where two big cats were sunning themselves with several hens with their broods wallowing all around them. I tried to get a snap shot of the group, but as soon as the camera was turned toward them the cats became alarmed and made off.

We have a cat now getting on in years, of good ridding stock (on the mother's side) that when quite a small kitten caught a rat nearly as big as himself, and held it (though he could not kill it) until

his mistress came with a stick and finished the job for him. Perhaps I get more good of cats because valuing them for their services in this line. I have no liking for a cat that does not "make good," but cull them out, and keep only the kind wanted.

How They Are Doing In West Virginia.

The West Virginia branch of the American Poultry Association seems to be trying to make itself a state poultry association along practical lines. There is a field for such an organization in every state. Whether it is practicable to do the work proposed through the medium of a "branch" of the A. P. A., is an open question. Local conditions will affect developments. The attitude of the A. P. A. is also a factor. At present, in most states, a state organization for practical purposes, a part of and subordinate to the A. P. A., will not go far.

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This great book by Edgar Briggs tells how to increase your present profits or start a profitable and easy occupation. Failures unknown when the Briggs System is used. It meets every condition and covers every part of the business. Keeps hens in the pink of condition and produces more eggs than any other system; molts hens early, and fowls are rarely sick when this wonderful System is followed.

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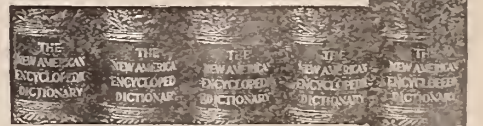
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Users of Amatite Roofing appreciate the fact that it never has to be painted, but it has remained for E. L. Krouse, of Binghams, N. Y., to burst into poetry over it in the following effusion sent to the manufacturers:

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And I bought Amatite.

I passed Bill's place the other day,
And there he was a-sweating—
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So I sat down to josh him,
And said I'd watch him smear,
While telling him I wouldn't paint
My roof for twenty year.

Reminded him we paid the same,
And figured up the cost
Of painting every year or two,
And showed how much he lost;
Till he was getting grouchy.
Then I took up my rein,
And said I'd come next painting time
And laugh at him again.

Readers who desire to know more about Amatite can get a free sample of it by addressing the Barrett Mfg. Co., Boston, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cleveland, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Minneapolis, New Orleans, London, Eng.

Briggs System and Secret Books.

The attention of readers is called to an advertisement in this issue, under which *Poultry Success*, of Springfield, Ohio, is offering in connection with a year's subscription the Briggs System and Secret books which, it is claimed, makes it possible for everyone, beginner or experi-

enced poultry raiser, in confined quarters or where poultry has free range, to be more successful in handling poultry than by any other system.

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- Chap. V.—A Few General Remarks on the Diseases of Poultry and Their Treatment.
- Chap. VI.—Colds and Diseases that Begin With Colds.
- Chap. VII.—Diseases Due to Improper Foods and Feeding.
- Chap. VIII.—Some Peculiarly Subtle and Dangerous Diseases.

- Chap. IX.—Diseases of the Reproductive Organs.
- Chap. X.—Diseases of the Skin.
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- Chap. XIII.—Internal Parasites of Poultry.
- Chap. XIV.—Insects Injurious to Poultry.
- Chap. XV.—The Vicious Habits of Fowls.
- Chap. XVI.—Molting.
- Appendix.
- Index.

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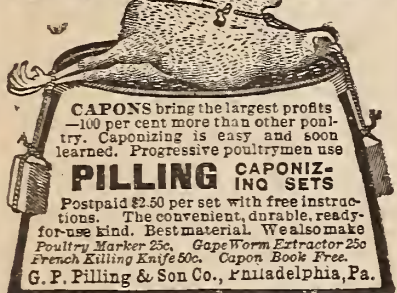
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